FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BETANCUR OPENS ECONOMIC COOPERATION MEETING

PA040251 Paris AFP in Spanish 2047 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 3 Sep (AFP) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today proposed a summit of Asian, African, and Latin American presidents to be followed by a North-South summit. He made the proposal at the inauguration of the Third Meeting on Economic Cooperation Among Developing Countries (CEPD). After deploring "the refusal to continue the North-South dialogue and seriously face overall negotiations," Betancur stressed that it is necessary to coordinate the North and South strategies in order to normalize the world economy's growth.

The economic cooperation among developing countries has been carried forward in the past 3 years through the implementation of the Caracas Plan of Action, under the supervision of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee whose members are meeting in Cartagena today.

This committee, made up of the 132 member-countries of the Group of 77, will make recommendations at the annual ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, prior to the annual UN General Assembly scheduled to begin in New York in September. Betancur expressed his support for a project to create a southern bank "to finance priority programs for the developing peoples, particularly those such as regional and inter-regional trade for multinational development projects, which are in fact the real means for unity and cooperation within the South."

In Betancur's opinion, the other initiative that should be promoted at the Cartagena meeting "is a general preferential system to expand trade flow." In concluding, Betancur recommended that the committee urgently outline policies to protect the level of life in the poorest countries, particularly in guaranteeing their nutritional needs.

The Colombian president elaborated on the economic crisis, strongly hitting the developing countries who are currently affected by the deterioration in trade conditions, protectionism, high interest rates, unstable oil prices, shrinkage in the international capital market, and the weakening of the international development banks. He particularly emphasized the grave situation of foreign indebtedness in developing countries stating that some of them transfer more than two percent of their gross national product (GNP) to industrialized countries.

He recalled that the industrialized countries never complied with their commitment to transfer 1 percent of their GNP in the form of long-term credits to developing countries every year. On the subject of South-South cooperation, Betancur suggested a plan of action to prevent "the application of discriminatory mechanisms by the large countries over the small countries" in relations between developing countries. He also called for "the restructuring of the channels of exploitation currently in effect as a result of North-South relations."

Betancur expressed his "astonishment" over the fact that intra-Latin American trade in the past 3 years has dropped at a much faster rate than Latin American trade with the rest of the world. "Savings are transferred from some Latin American countries to others, and from the latter to the north," Betancur said. He added that this has paralyzed the mechanisms for credit compensation and financial support. "The crisis increases the isolation of sister countries and strengthens their links with the great centers of power," he stressed.

Porfirio Munoz Ledo, president of the Group of 77 and Mexican ambassador to the United Nations. also spoke at the inauguration ceremony. A message from Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India and president of the Nonaligned Movement, was also read. Delegates from some 60 African, Asian, and Latin American countries are participating in the meeting of the Follow-up and Coordiantion Committee which will last until next Saturday.

REPORTAGE ON ECOSOC MEETING IN CHILE

Drug Trafficking Issue

PY311459 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Santiago, 30 Aug (EFE) -- Bolivian Planning Minister Antonio Aranibar has presented a motion to the Inter-American Economic and Social Council asking for maximum cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking. The proposal presented by Aranibar, who is the Bolivian delegate to the council's meeting, is supported by Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua, Peru, and Panama.

Despite the support given to it by the countries attending the meeting, the approval of this proposal had to be suspended for 24 hours upon a request made by the U.S. delegation, which stated that it had not foreseen a discussion of this issue and stated that it was necessary to consult with its government before making a decision. The Haitian delegate also asked for a postponement in order to study and economic repercussions that such a contribution in the struggle against drug trafficking could have for his country.

After the unconditional support of Ecuador, Barbados, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras, the Bolivian representative spoke again to say that a postponement was acceptable. "It is important and indispensable that the United States support this resolution, because otherwise it will be worthless since it is in the United States where drugs are consumed the most," Aranibar stated.

In the draft of the resolution it is stated that drug trafficking is an activity that affects several states and that it cannot be coped with through individual efforts. The draft asks for the adoption of "energetic and urgent" collective measures seeking to halt and possible eliminate drug trafficking and its collateral activities.

The draft also asks that the OAS General Assembly include drug trafficking on its agenda as a permanent issue, and that the member countries decide on the suitability of calling an inter-American conference on this issue. In his speech, the Bolivian representative asked that drug trafficking be declared "a crime against mankind," and he asked for the creation of a fund to support and assist those countries that take steps to cope with the problem both at the production and consumption levels.

The Ecuadoran representative, Eduardo Mora, defined drug trafficking as "a scourge that all countries in the continent must eradicate," while Venezuelan Ambassador Edilberto Moreno stated that his country regards drug trafficking as a priority issue since the traffickers are "very dangerous criminals."

The reconstruction deputy minister of the Nicaraguan Government Junta of National Reconstruction, Cesar Arostegui, regretted that the United States did not make a decision immediately and the Guatemalan representative stated that he did not have to consult with his government because the matter was so obvious that it went without saying.

Chile Economy Minister's Remarks

PY010415 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] The 19th meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council [IA-Ecosoc concluded tonight. The participants were optimistic about the strengthening of Inter-American organizations. The meeting, which lasted for a week, was held at the Diego Portales building. The main matters discussed were Latin American foreign debts and protectionism. Economy Minister Modesto Collados said he was optimistic about the outcome of the meeting.

[Begin Collados recording] Well, we did not talk just about Chile because this was an inter-American meeting. Of course, we discussed the interests of all Latin American countries. The positions and the problems of the Latin American and Caribbean countries are very similar, so the decisions we have adopted will be positive for all of them. I believe that during these meetings it is important that we discuss common stands on some problems, such as the foreign debt issue which affects all Latin American and Caribbean countries, regional trade, which is currently adverse and negative for us, the prices of raw materials, which is another great problem, the protectionist measures adopted by industrialized countries, etc. All these problems are common to our countrie and a consensus is required to resolve them and to strengthen our bilateral relations. [end recording]

Referring to concrete measures adopted during the meeting, Minister Collados, who presided at the session, said:

[Begin Collados recording] One of the main decisions is that we must adopt a common stand on th foreign debt issue. I am not talking about joint negotiations because that is different We must adopt a common stand because the adverse situations of the debtor countries must be considered. We also decided that regional trade must be increased. The Latin American countries must be allowed to grow and their exports to increase to permit their development. The criticism of protectionism was also extremely important because the protectionist measures industrialized countries have adopted have had an adverse effect on our development. [end recording]

Conclusions Discussed

PY012104 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] One of the main conclusions reached at the 19th meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council [IA-Ecosoc] in Santiago this week was proposed by Peruvian Economy Minister Jose Munoz Benavides, who summed it up by saying that all Americans should maintain a dialogue to solve economic problems at the least social cost. This meeting had two main subjects -- the foreign debt and protectionism by industrial countries. Another subject added later was drug trafficking.

Most attention was paid to the foreign debt and, although there were no concrete solutions, it was agreed that this problem is limiting the economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. Some propositions were made aimed at alleviatir the financial situations of these countries with some practical measures not demanding new resources from the industrial countries. They mainly referred to obtaining more flexibility from such international financial organizations as the IADB, the IBRD, and the IMF in granting credits to the region. It was proposed that the IADB and the IBRD not demand that the Latin American countries provide matching funds for development of social programs and for investments.

Moreover, in the case of such programs and investments, the IMF should not include the cost of these matching funds in the countries' fiscal deficits during the following adjustment programs. This measure would permit these nations to use those funds in other ways. Thus, the government receiving those credits would be allowed to undertake economic or social development initiatives that would permit it to alleviate unemployment.

Although unemployment was not on the agenda, it was permanently in the minds of all delegates. The region's unemployment problem is so great that by 1990 unemployment in Latin America may reach 50 percent or more of the regional labor force unless rapid economic growth is achieved. The final report on this issue, prepared by Peruvian Senator Manuel Ulloa, is dramatic.

Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun complained about the high interest rates. He said that if the international interest rate was 5 percentage points lower, the countries of the region would not have had problems with their balance of payments. At the present time, however, they are making all possible efforts to increase their exports just to pay the interest on their foreign debts.

Chilean Economy Minister Modesto Collado said that we are paying interest just so we can continue to pay our debts. In order to increase exports, markets and fair prices are needed, but the industrial countries are protecting themselves from imported products and paying less for them all the time. This was also a topic of debate, and the conclusion was reached that an international trade conference should be called to find solutions to this problem.

OAS Secretary General Baena Soares said that no concrete solutions were found, but important progress has been made. The problem of drug trafficking was also included on the agenda. The Bolivian delegate called it a crime against humanity and asked that it be condemned. The U.S. ambassador to the OAS, William Middendorf, noted his satisfaction with this initiative because drug trafficking affects the youth, and the U.S. youth are the main consumers of cocaine.

MANUFACTURERS DECRY U.S., EEC, JAPAN PROTECTIONISM

PY032240 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2035 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Sep (NA) -- The Association of Latin American Manufacturers (AILA) has criticized U.S., EEC, and Japanese protectionist policies and the interest rate increase in the U.S. capital market. In a document entitled "Declaration of Buenos Aires," AILA, an organization of Latin American private businessmen, has warned that the Latin American foreign debt "can provoke a far-reaching political and socio-economic crisis that would have a destabilizing effect on all Western nations." In a tacit endorsement of the position maintained by governments of the region on the foreign debt issue, the AILA declaration said: "Only through strong industrial production growth will our countries be able to overcome the current economic crisis, which has been primarily caused by restrictions in the foreign sector."

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION TASK

PY011340 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0303 GMT 1 Sep 84

[President Raul Alfonsin Industrialist Day speech at Sheraton Hotel in Buenos Aires -- live]

[Text] Argentine democracy has already produced the most important political facts that will allow us to recover our dignity as a nation and our rights as citizens. The country is debating the building of its future within the framework of its institutions, convinced that the state of the law has changed us all into builders of our own destiny.

This is a very special moment. I would say that now marks the very beginning of economic reconstruction. It is thus necessary to explain some concepts to clarify the major principles upon which the relationship between the government and the productive sector is based. To those who are familiar with the course followed by the Radical Party, it will be nothing new that we are committed to an economic policy based on a mixed capitalist economy in which both the state and the private sector work for the country's development and for the equitable distribution of wealth.

We want to undertake the economic reconstruction task within these general guidelines. The reactivation of the industrial sector is one of the main foundations of this task. To attain this objective, the government will try to create a favorable environment through the proper official measures, but it will not seek to become the central agent. This role is to be played by entrepreneurs with an innovative spirit. We know there are such people among us, and we hope they will grow in number and restore the dynamic life our country once enjoyed.

For several years now, we have witnessed increasing deterioration of our investment capacity. Today our investments are much smaller than in 1970. This regression has been markedly noticeable in the production equipment sector, particularly in the private sector. It is imperative to change this situation because, otherwise, our country might be led to a state of capital depletion. To meet this challenge, a change of attitude and a mature awareness of our responsibility will be necessary. This will prevent Argentina from stagnating.

Both government and entrepreneurs have been summoned. The public sector will not act in those areas in which the private sector is expected to take the initiative. Yet the private sector should not expect everything from the government.

The country is unable to transfer resources to the industrial sector on a massive scale. This is prevented by the decrease in wealth that has taken place over the past years and is hampered by the flight of savings forced by the servicing of the foreign debt.

The government can and must, however, encourage investments by applying selective criteria which take into account the profitability of such investments. There are several ways to promote a return of profitable investments and growth. In the first place, it is necessary to conceive of industry whose market is the world and not just Argentina. Industrial production is going through great transformations at international levels. To be detached from this process will imply a certain condemnation of Argentine industry to a technological lag and to a loss of competitiveness. A stimulus for industrial exports is the first approach to make up for the time lost. The government will offer its contribution by guaranteeing a stable and rewarding exchange rate, by strengthening those industries which go after foreign markets, the nearest goal being the quest for industrial integration at the Latin American level which will provide the launching pad for the reindustrialization of Argentina.

The rational utilization of the purchasing power of the state is a second step for promoting renewed profitable investment. The government is drafting medium-term programs for public investment. We expect that through these programs the uncertainty of business calculations will diminish. The government intends to support the reactivation of private enterprise through contracts which will involve it in government programs for the supply of equipment and commodities.

Simultaneously with these two lines of action, the government is perfecting the laws on economic policies which serve the objectives previously described. In sum, among these laws we must first mention the law on industrial promotion, which is a means and not a substitute for consistent and integral industrial development. Promotion creates a number of incentives for sectors or regions and must be wisely used, taking into account the alternative uses for such resources. Its objectives are: 1) to establish enterprises with national capital; 2) to encourage exports; 3) to integrate the production networks; 4) to introduce new technologies; and 5) to correct the imbalances in the national economic areas.

To this effect the government will carefully use the tools of fiscal credits and incentives by establishing specific budget allocations. However, there is always a question when the state intervenes in allocating funds. In fact, what criteria are used to set priorities and objectives? The answer to this question will result from the discussion between the various sectors and the authorities within the fruitful framework of the labor-business-government talks. These talks will also provide the foundation for devising systems which will give the provinces a chance to participate in decisionmaking concerning promotion and financial management which will result from the legislation that is to be enacted.

From the beginning of our tenure we have reversed the decline in industrial exports, exchange rate stability being the fundamental basis of our policy, along with the maximum use of national raw materials, productive integration, and adjustment of our marketing systems to the fluctuating reality of the world market. The organization of the state, of the transport system, and of other services will be the key additions to this policy. We have taken special care to give preferential treatment to exports generated by regional economies.

We have also sent to the legislative branch a draft law on exports and we have created the Foreign Trade Advisory Council [CACE], which has been a longstanding and justified desire of Argentine businessmen. It will give them the guarantees and allow them to participate. The CACE, which includes the Argentine Industrial Association, precisely permits such participation.

Among the mechanisms to be applied is a system of compensated trade which will provide the institutional framework for an already operational device being used in the first phase of our program with Mexico to export turnkey projects and technology.

Special programs by sectors and markets, tax reimbursement in real terms, the reorganization of credit insurance for exports, the reorganization of the system of reimbursements in accordance with the principal of favoring the sale of products that have the largest added value and the stability of the exporters' income will all act as an integrated system and will be at the service of the industrial policy.

The delicate external situation compels us to give special attention to the import substitution policy. The tariff system will be maintained in order to give a degree of protection that will permit the recovery of the damaged industrial areas and the development of new projects.

On the other hand, tariffs must try to prevent backward steps in the transfer of advanced technology and in the creation of economically privileged sectors. The evolution of the tariff system must be adapted to a permanent technological and economic analysis. Therefore, we have ordered a study of the overall tariff system by sectorial technical commissions in consultation with business organizations.

Regarding the draft law on the transfer of technology, it has the basic objective of achieving national autonomy in the development of technology. It has the intention of regulating the incorporation of technology from abroad. A National Fund for Technological Development will also be created and with it an effective step will be taken to substitute national for imported technologies within the private and public sectors and to promote the export of those technologies.

We favor increasing the budget of the National Industrial Technology Institute [INTI], which has been primarily charged with serving as a link between advanced technologies and production trends. The INTI is also in charge of disseminating technology and it will be the basis of our policy on exchange of technology with other Latin American countries.

Technological development is primarily aimed at strengthening the small and medium-size industries that are incapable of financing their own research work.

Our government is determined to see that foreign capital continues to be protected, as it has always been, by the noble principles of our Constitution. Foreign capital firms are necessary to our economy, mainly because they make technological contributions and they give us the possibility of increasing the level of our exports through their channels We will adopt measures to attract foreign capital in those sectors where national capital and mainly technology are insufficient. However, foreign capital will not be allowed to replace national capital in those sectors in which national investments are made and which supply technology to the local market.

As for the incentives granted to industrial firms to promote the reinvestment of profit, we will continue to avoid discriminating between national and foreign firms.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the overall framework of our industrial policy. The government has started to renegotiate the foreign debt to allow the country to have greater resources for its rebirth. However, we are alarmed over the growing increase in interest rates, which is an arbitrary burden on debtor countries. In this interdependent world, which encompasses both debtor and creditor countries, this kind of imposition is inadmissible.

For this reason, we have promoted initiatives, such as the recent Cartagena meeting, aimed at reconciling views with the Latin American governments in order to discuss with industrialized countries, international credit organizations, and world banks a new approach to the foreign debt and commercial trade problems to facilitate the opening of new markets to our exports.

We want good sense to prevail because we have developed as a national and we want to continue to do so within the framework of the international flow of goods and capital, and not outside it. The crisis confronted by the world economic order is of a political nature because the people in charge of adopting the necessary measures to prevent it have ignored the signs which warned, and which continue to warn of the existence of imminent danger.

The renegotiation of the foreign debt will slow down the draining of internal resources, and the short-term program will reduce inflation rates to manageable figures. This will create the necessary conditions to channel the country's energy toward investment.

We could rightly accuse those responsible for what we have inherited, but, unfortunately, this will not change the limitations within which we have to work. In this regard, we should not be deceived and neither should we expect to immediately recover the well-being we have lost. Only a collective, patient, and persistent effort will reactivate the economy, generate wealth, and improve our living standards.

The government is currently working on drawing up a plan which, in the medium- and long-term, will allow us to attend to unfulfilled social demands, will establish a productive structure that will provide solid ground for greater and more sustained growth, and which will gradually loosen the foreign strangulation hold on our economy.

Under the current emergency, the task of reconciling social demands with the needs for capitalization and growth represents a complex political problem that will require various types of adjustments between the state and the representative organizations of the country's economic and social sectors.

To acknowledge our current difficulties, however, does not mean we consider them permanent. I am absolutely certain that with solidarity, realism, and wise decision-making we shall gradually get rid of obstacles and increase our possibilties. Throughout its 6-year constitutional term, the government will do its job, with determination on but always making the necessary adjustments in order to achieve our objectives to increase growth, well-being, and the strenghthening of democracy.

We will require that the heads of the economic team help us shape this difficult path we must take under clear rules of the game: profit as a reward for effort and risks, and austerity in the handling of surpluses and certain social commitments.

The imperative of this hour is specific: All of us together will meet this challenge. But we need men and women devoted to our country to join our struggle with the invaludable contribution of their knowledge, their analytical capacity, and the new solutions that they will propose. Today, as in other difficult moments in our history, let our eyes once again turn to our unlimited resources, let our hands once again handle the productive tools, and let our hearts once again strengthen us as they did when we had to endure hardships, doing away with hate, encouraging creative forces, and utilizing our intelligence in the service of our efforts to illuminate our destiny.

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT-CGT DISAGREEMENT, STRIKE

Troccoli: Dialogue with CGT Broken

PY302205 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli has stated that the dialogue that the government had implemented to narrow its difficulties with the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] has been broken. He thus referred to the absence of the CGT leaders from the second meeting held in search of an accord at the Interior Ministry building. Correspondent (Jorge Abazaro) filed this report:

There were several absences at the meeting held by the social accord board today. The labor movement delegation was made up of the representatives of the so-called Group of 20, but the secretaries general of the CGT, whose presence is essential for the implementation of any agreement, were not there. The debates began at 1030 at the Interior Ministry.

The government was represented by the interior, economy, and labor ministers, Antonio Troccoli, Bernardo Grinspun, and Juan Manuel Casella, respectively, and by the Under Secretaries of Trade and Planning Ricardo Campero and Juan Serrouille, respectively. The business sector was represented by engineer Favelevic of the Argentine Industrial Union, Julio Gomez of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr Sabate of UDECA [expansion unknown], Mr Humberto Volando of the Agrarian Federation, Mr (Miguel Pivon) of the Argentine Rurual Society, and Mr Raul Romero Feris of the Argentine National Confederations. The Group of 20 was represented by labor leaders Juan Racchini, Luis Etchezar, and Enrique Mico. Racchini told reporters that those who were absent today will be present at future meetings, and those who came today may not come tomorrow. The important thing is that the country should not stop.

Even though no statement was issued in connection with the absence of the major labor leaders, the move is being regarded as an action in line with the general strike decreed by the CGT for 3 September. The strike could be considered as a signal that unions are sending to the government and the business sector in connection with the social accord.

Minister Troccoli, who outlined the government's political views on the accord, said that order must be restored and that prices and the purchasing power of salaries must be brought into balance. However, he noted, the essential issue is the sustained growth of the economy. Torccoli also said that growth will not be attained with the same methods and imbalances of recent times. Companies must obtain enough profits and the purchasing power of salaries must be restored, he remarked. Troccoli also pointed out that the GNP is 20 percent lower than it was 10 years ago.

The interior minister deplored the absence of the labor leaders who attended the first meeting and, without making any specific reference to the general strike, said that they are knocking at a door that is already open to negotiations. The dialogue that the government has implemented to narrow differences has been broken, he concluded.

Government Proposes Economic Plan

PY311832 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Aug 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The government presented a short-term economic plan to business and non-CGT union groups who are participating in socio-economic contract (concertacion) talks, which sets wage, price, and utility rate increases for September at 16 percent, and calls for even smaller increases in the remaining quarter of 1984.

Interest rates for September, although not mentioned in the government's written statement, were quoted by sources present at yesterday's talks at 15.5 percent for depositors and 17 percent for borrowers. The Argentine peso is to be devalued by 17 percent, and money supply is to grow by 14 percent.

Stating as its main goals economic recovery, improved wages, the fight against inflation, and the rescheduling of the foreign debt, the programme emphasized that "there still remain two negative elements which must be eradicated from Argentine society: parasitic speculation and its corollary, the underground economy (black money, over- and under-invoicing, the parallel market and tax evasion)."

Earlier press reports said the government would set September increases at 12 percent, but the plan explains that "September guidelines take into consideration the situation in August, which forces us to accept an impact on the following period's prices, as a result of inflationary inertia."

"The concertacion is the basic tool for organizing the distribution of income and reducing inflationary pressure," the statement emphasized. "The wages of one sector may not increase in detriment of the revenue of other sectors. The fight against inflation will in itself bar the sharp oscillations in income which always end up canceling out temporary improvements."

The government will continue to enforce price ceilings for the so-called basic products, and may increase the list of those goods if necessary. Business will not be entitled to pass on to prices any wage increases beyond the government guidelines.

Casella Urges Reponsibility

PY310250 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0012 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Aug (TELAM) -- Labor Minister Juan Manuel Casella today said that strikes are normal in a democracy and that the event that will take place on 3 September, rather than causing alarm, should be regarded as a characteristic of a democratic society.

During a press conference he hosted at the Labor Ministry headquarters in the wake of the unified General Confederation of Labor [CGT] decision to call for a general strike for 3 September, Minister Casella said that "the only limitation on the right to go on strike lies in the responsibility incumbent upon labor leaders and workers."

After pointing out that we should be seriously concerned if the state were attempting to curtail or cancel the exercise of this right, he ruled out that the government may consider the possibility of regulating it.

Casella emphasized the responsibility of labor leaders and workers and urged them to wonder, not about what will happen on 3 September, but about what will happen in the following days, that is, to consider why the strike has been called and what consequences it will bring to our country.

"We know, better than anybody else, the needs of the workers, which we share with them, but everybody knows that such needs are the result of the general impoverishment of our country," he added. "The final solution to this problem will come with economic growth," the minister said. He then wondered whether this strike will help raise our standard of living.

After stressing that the Argentine Government is legitimate both from the viewpoint of its origin and of its objectives, the minister maintained that it is evident that the entire country knows that the government is not defending international or antipopular interests. "The government is on the people's side and nobody can deny this, not even the most bitter political rivals of Dr Alfonsin," he said. We have proven that we defend workers and their organizations with devotion and determination, he added.

"It does not seem fair that this government, which has been in power for so short a time, should be the target of an aggression that was not launched during a much longer period against those who caused the situation from which we are now suffering," he said. "We are aware that leaders are under pressure for electoral reasons in their unions and parties, and everybody is aware that unions are undergoing a normalization process that forces leaders to adopt certain attitudes. Yet we rightly wonder whether that electoral urge should be given more importance than the interests of workers," he said.

Strike has 'Political Connotations'

PY022315 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Sep 84 p 1

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN) Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli said yesterday the government was taking measures to induce massive job attendance to counteract the effects of tomorrow's 24-hour strike called by the General Labour Confederation (CGT).

Troccoli, who flew to the Cordoba city of Rio Cuarto to represent President Raul Alfonsin at the opening of a local livestock show, told newsmen the government would ensure order, security, and the right to work by people who did not join the strike. The minister said he believed absenteeism would be practically nil in the interior but there might be problems in the big cities. "Even then I think the strike incidence will be minimized because not all transportation services will be halted," he said.

Troccoli said the strike had strong political connotations, an obvious reference to the role of the Justicialist Party in refusing to allow a Senate mediation committee to be set up. The minister said the absence of the CGT from a meeting on Friday in the framework of the government-sponsored socio-economic pact known as the Concertacion would not disrupt the talks in which business sectors were also represented. "The CGT is not the labour movement; at least, it is not the whole of the labour movement. There are other groups which represent labour," the minister said.

The CGT has said, however, it was not pulling out of the talks but did not attend Friday's meeting because of the on-going strike. "It would have been ridiculous for us to attend," CGT leader Saul Ubaldini said.

Government, CGT on Strike Results

PY040200 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Sep (DYN) -- Today the first general strike called by the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] since the constitutional government took office about 9 months ago had a high degree of observance in the industrial areas of Buenos Aires and Cordoba. Observance of the strike was, however, lower in other points of the country and many workers in other sectors worked normally despite the reduction in transportation services.

The government and the CGT have markedly disagreed on the percentage of absenteeism. The CGT has claimed that 87 percent of the workers observed the strike. The government, however, refrained from giving an overall figure but noted that 60 percent of the workers reported to work throughout the provinces while admitting that 65 percent of the workers observed the strike in Buenos Aires and Cordoba.

Attacks and harassments have taken place in several areas of the country against those who refused to observe the strike, including 55 damaged buses in Tucuman and a threat that a bomb would be placed inside a school in City Bell, Buenos Aires Province, while the students were still there.

Strike Observance in Provinces

PY031248 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1158 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] We will now report on the situation in some provinces as a result of the strike called by the General Confederation of Labor [CGT]. According to a reporter of Radio La Voz of Comahue, labor activities are almost normal in Neuquen and in the Upper Rio Negro Valley.

In Mendoza, banking, judicial, public, transportation, and school activities are being carried out normally this morning. Gasoline stations are also open. However, some banking and public employees are arriving at work late because of the reduced short- and medium-distance transportation services. The traditional [words indistinct] opened today, but the local dailies were not printed and the newspaper and magazine stand are closed. Similarly, police vigilance has been increased in some strategic parts of Mendoza, and the hospitals, the Mendoza energy company, and the Mendoza water works company are operating normally. In Buenos Aires, the dailies CLARIN, LA NACION, TIEMPO ARGENTINO, LA PRENSA, CRONICA, DIARIO POPULAR, AMBITO FINANCIERO, and the BUENOS AIRES HERALD were printed this morning and are being sold normally on the streets. The only newspaper that did not appear this morning is LA VOZ, which supports the CGT strike.

Report on Strike in Buenos Aires

PY031312 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1238 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] According to a TELAM report, a large number of public and private employees have reported to work in Buenos Aires, but in the Greater Buenos Aires industrial park the strike called by the General Confederation of Labor is almost total. In general, commercial activities in Buenos Aires are normal. As for transportation services, a large number of buses are on the streets and subway trains are running normally, facilitating the arrival at work of a large number of workers. However, train services have been significantly restricted, for which reason the Argentine Railways Company has decided to adopt an emergency schedule. Absenteeism is high in the port of Buenos Aires. In the Greater Buenos Aires industrial park, absenteeism is also high but transportation and commercial activities are normal. Medium- and long-distance bus service have been reduced to 30 percent. This was reported by the press office of the Retiro Bus terminal, where a reduced number of passangers has been observed. Most of the companies did not open their offices at the terminal and only a small number of passengers are buying tickets.

Further Report

PY031432 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1345 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 3 Sep (NA) -- Seven of the eight Buenos Aires dailies appeared this morning despite the fact that the newsmen and printers unions have expressed their support of the strike. Metropolitan radio personnel are holding 15-minute work stoppages every hour, during which time music is played. The announcers of the four Buenos Aires television stations are observing the strike, but they have one person on duty per shift. The news agencies TELAM (official) and DYN are working normally, but NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS is holding 1-hour stoppages per shift. The afternoon newspapers LA RAZON and CRONICA plan to appear normally.

Interior Ministry Communique

PY031639 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1507 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Labor Minister Juan Manuel Casella and his aides are holding a meeting at the Labor Ministry to evaluate the scope of the strike called by the General Confederation of Labor [CGT].

Meanwhile, CGT sources have reported that the unified CGT Executive Council will meet at 1300 at the Textile Workers Association at 704 La Plata Avenue.

According to an Interior Ministry communique released at Government House, 70 percent of the private transportation companies are in service and 80 percent and 75 percent, respectively, of primary and secondary school students are attending classes. The communique, which was drawn up at 1000, indicates that 70 percent of the taxis are on the streets in Buenos Aires and that the metropolitan area's subways are operating as follows: Line A, 90 percent; Line B, 70 percent; Line C, 80 percent; and Lines D and E, 60 percent. Similarly, domestic and international flights and ferry services to Uruguay are normal. However, ships are not leaving the port of Buenos Aires. The communique indicates that the Bank of the Nations is working normally and that 70 percent of the insurance company employees have reported to work.

The Interior Ministry is in permanent contact with the provincial government houses to learn about the labor situation throughout the country.

Union sources have reported the following percentages of attendance by Government Oil Deposits [YPF] workers in the various YPF plants in the interior of the country: 100 percent in Comodoro Rivadavia, Huincul, Chubut, and Mendoza; 60 percent in Santa Cruz Norte; 50 percent in the southern basin; and 80 percent in Vespucio.

Ubaldini: Strike 'Complete Success'

PY031622 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1416 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Sep (TELAM) -- Labor union leader Saul Ubaldini today stated that the workers, upholding their first principle of peace, have peacefully joined the day of protest, thus making it a complete success. He said that they did so despite the government's measures to undermine the Argentine workers' movement.

Ubaldini thanked all the sectors that have supported the protest and said that this once again proves that the workers can be united or divided, but never confronted. Ubaldini added: Let us hope to God that the government will realize the real needs of the poorest sectors, namely, the workers, and that together with the other sectors of the organized Argentine community we achieve what the Argentine people desire and deserve: their happiness and the enhancement of our fatherland.

Ubaldini stated that the partial results, according to the information he had received early this morning from the various branches of the General Confederation of Labor throughout the country, surpass all estimates. He concluded by stating that this afternoon the CGT will release a complete evaluation of the scope of this forceful measure adopted in defense of the workers' rights.

Grinspun: Stoppage Harms IMF Talks

PY031709 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1422 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Sep (DYN) -- In commenting on the stoppage decreed by the General Confederation of Labor, Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun stated that "it does not favor" the negotiations with the IMF. During an interview broadcast by Radio Belgrano, the head of the Economy Ministry stated that "this does not help the government," and he also asserted that "the IMF never had problems negotiating with the military government," to which it made concessions.

The radio program announcer voiced the public's opinion that "it is impossible to live off 16,000 pesos," to which Minister Grinspun answered that "harder still was it to live off the previous salary. We have done something to improve it."

He was also asked whether "the government id doing something to struggle against the financial fatherland," to which he said yes, and then added: "But I wonder what those who are currently striking to struggle against the financial fatherland did in 1977." He ended by stating that "we can talk when they answer this question."

Lopez: Strike Not General

PY031836 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Presidential adviser German Lopez a few minutes ago stated that the attitude adopted by the labor movement, the labor leaders, and particularly the small group of top [CGT] leaders who exert a real form of tyranny over the Argentine labor movement is totally negative.

Asked about a press report that President Alfonsin has instructed his assistants to launch a political offensive, Lopez said: All I can say is that the government will launch an offensive in the labor field within the general framework of its policy. He added: It is impossible to continue this dialogue with the deaf, in which a sector makes proposals and when the negotiations are about to be satisfactorily concluded, it demands things other than the ones agreed upon. For this reason, he said the government has decided to change its attitude, to become more forceful and strict, and to make fewer concessions in the reorganization of its labor policy [para ordenar la politica segun otros carriles].

Asked whether this meant that CGT leaders Ubaldini, Triaca, Borda, and Baldassini would no longer be considered as legal labor representatives, Lopez said that under the current emergency other representatives have emerged who must be paid due attention. I believe, he remarked, that the exclusive representation that has been bestowed upon the four CGT leaders implies excluding other important sectors from the dialogue. For this reason, I think that other representatives who maintain different views should be allowed to sit at the negotiating table.

Regarding the strike, Lopez said that the reports he has received from the provincial governments show that it is not general because the activity in some provinces is 100 percent normal. He said: I have just talked with the Misiones governor made a similar report. He said that the activity is normal in some parts of the country and significantly high in others.

Presidential Spokesman's Remarks

PY040305 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Presidential spokesman German Lopez statement on 4 September -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the first place, what has taken place today should not be called a general stoppage. Obviously, it has been a partial stoppage that has affected some sectors in the country. Its scope, however, reflects what the government has been advocating in this regard. Activities in the country have been variable, of course. There are a significant number of provinces where activities have been completely normal.

What is important is the conclusion that every citizen draws concerning the events that have taken place today. And much more important than all this will be evaluation that all of us will make, and especially those who have called the stoppage, tomorrow. Because tomorrow another day will have passed. The so-called general stoppage will be over and we will be faced again with our daily situation. The situation resulting from the stoppage does not entail any basic change at all. The unfortunate situation of the country, a situation which it inherited after 8 years of rule of a government that virtually destroyed the economy and tragically incresed the country's indebtedness, still prevails. the obligations incurred over the past 8 years are still there. The responsibilities of those who called the stoppage and those of us who are in the government are still there. Nobody can free us from our responsiblities toward the country and from the need to join the efforts of those who are willing to effectively struggle to overcome these difficulties and to solve them once and for all.

CGT Issues Communique

PY040340 Buenos Aires TELAM in Portuguese 0049 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Sep (TELAM) -- The Executive Board of the Unified General Labor Confederation tonight issued a communique saying that seriously warning the government that we are at the end of our capacity for resistance demonstrates courage and is a legitimate and democratic attitude, adding that today's stoppage is a red light, a warning signal that should not be understood or interpreted in any other way. The communique also says that the CGT support the government-labor-business agreement as the basis for economic recovery, and that the workers will, in that regard, make their constructive contributions.

Under the title of Only Truth Can Assure a Democratic Way of Life, the communique was read by Saul Ubaldini, one of the four CGT secretaries general, who was accompanied by Senator Oraldo Britos, Justicialist Party of San Luis, at the offices on 1482 Brazil Street. The communique says that today the man who works and is dependent on a salary as his only income joined the strike, because he badly needs a realitic and correct policy and is seeing with anguish the earnings of his work eroded by an inflationary rampage that has gone from 400 to 760 percent during the 8-month management of the preser government.

It adds that this need does not have a political party, because if it did and we were in the opposition, we would be confessing that the government party is made up of those who do not feel, or ignore the need. And this would be a sad demonstration of the Argentine democracy that we would like to see overcome through a timely reflection and realistic treatment of the question.

In another paragraph, the communique notes that the clear and courageous attitudes of the workers constitute the best possibility for the consolidation of democracy. Nothing can prosper on cowardice and dissimulation. Seriously warning the government that we are at the end of our capacity for resistance constitutes a courageous, legitimate, and democratic attitude, and calls attention to the fact that this problem deteriorates our productive structure. The mere continuation of this state of affairs is threatening the working people's capacity to survive. The communique notes that the stoppage is like a red light and a notice that must not be understood in any other way, since nobody's prestige or representation is at stake. At stake is the common lot of all Argentines, and the workers would be bad Argentines if we did not warn the entire society, not just the government, that the country cannot go on this way.

The unified CGT then expressed sadness at seeing the official information apparatus trying to cover up with words the reality of the stoppage, noting that the road of truth is not followed by separating the workers from the rest of the community or by worsening recession by making money an end in itself so that speculation is better business than production. This can be gathered by the proposal which, in the absence of the working class, the government hastily made public.

After indicating that today the workers are calling for a program of reactivated production and recovery of our people's normal standard of living, the communique states that we are giving our word that the government-labor-business discussions can be turned into an agreement on a policy that does not tie everything to a new torture on the rack of monetarism.

Then the communique gives answers to those who ask themselves, what on Tuesday? This is our answer: agreement to bring about recovery, and to this effect the workers will continue to contribute with our constructive capacity.

Lastly, the CGT document warns that should the government's answer be to go on like this, without listening, submitting the economy to the demands of those who profit from usury, and if production continues to stagnate and the standard of living continues to shrink, the government, and not the CGT will be shown to be in error.

DEPUTIES DEMAND INFORMATION ON U.S. REPORT

PY031530 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2113 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Sep (NA) -- Peronist Deputies Florencio Carranza and Julio Cesar Corzo have submitted a bill to the Chamber of Deputies requesting from the executive branch information on the "possible intervention" of U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz "in Argentine affairs that do not concern him." Carranza and Corzo's request for information stems from a confidential report of the U.S. Embassy that points out the "need to strengthen the Radical government" and that was disclosed by the media.

The motion requests details of the "confidential memorandum Ambassador Ortiz sent to his government regarding the Argentine situation" and on "how it (the executive branch) explains the fact that a confidential memorandum of an embassy became public knowledge if it was not leaked by the embassy itself." The deputies also wonder "how it (the executive branch) explains the fact that the memorandum maintains the 'need to strengthen the government' which, in turn, implies that in the future it might maintain the need to weaken it." They also want to know whether the executive branch "doesn't consider this issue a clear political intervention in Argentine domestic affairs." In their bill Carranza and Corzo note that "the northern power's well-known custom of interfering in the domestic affairs of the countries of our American Continent, for which it knows no limits, makes it urgently necessary to set things straight."

MILITARY TO RECEIVE 18-PERCENT WAGE INCREASE

PY311836 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Aug 84 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- Military officers and non-commissioned officers will receive an 18-percent salary increase this month plus an additional increase varying according to rank, Defence Ministry sources said yesterday. The additional increases will range from 18.60 percent for a sergeant to 1.45 percent for a major general, the sources said. But lieutenants, sub-lieutenants, and corporals will not receive an additional increase because they were given higher increases in previous months, they added.

AEROFLOT SEEKS TO OBTAIN LANDING RIGHTS

PY312220 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Aug 84 p 3, 4

[Article by Guillermo Zavala W.: "Bolivia in the Itinerary for Soviet Infiltration"]

[Excerpts] Bolivia's geographical position makes it part of the Soviet Union's strategy for penetration in this hemisphere.

For the Soviets, Cuba and Nicaragua are key bases for the attainment of objectives outlined by the Kremlin. Following the strategy of their masters, Fidel Castro in Havana and Daniel Ortega in Managua are doing their best to involve Central American and Caribbean nations in their political endeavours. Meanwhile, taking advantage of the democratic framework, Bolivian communists have been gaining ground without too much effort. Social upheavals, the destruction of private enterprise, the stirring up of chaos, anarchy and the peculiar situation of being part of the government and against it, are among the doctrinaire resources of international communism.

Communist infiltration has spread all the way down from official government levels to sports. Cuba offered the Unpayu [expansion unknown] of Tarija to lend them basketball players to participate in the international tournament which began on 24 August. Among the conditions laid down by the Cuban Government was allowing a Cubana de Aviacion plane to remain in Bolivia for as long as the tournament lasted. U.S. Embassy intelligence services discovered the ploy and subtly moved to upset it, lending Unpayu two players from a New York team.

As far as we could find out, the presence of a Cubana de Aviacion plane and a group of technicians is related to the project which this airline has to link Havana and La Paz by a regular passenger and freight service.

Meanwhile, Aeroflot representatives took, through the USSR Embassy in La Paz, the first steps to include Bolivia in the itinerary of this Soviet airline. The negotiations took place secretly with the cooperation of the government and the Ministry of Aeronautics.

A week ago, as a result of an investigation which was not made any easier by the silence of those who discussed this matter with the Soviet envoys, EL DIARIO was able to report on these events. The official misinformation machine tried to deny that such negotiations had ever taken place, although in the end they were acknowledged by General Antonio Arnez, minister of aeronautics. Furthermore, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Relations have confirmed that they have participated in certain negotiations whose records have not been disclosed and on which the official report is still being awaited, although it has been duly established that they took place in La Paz and Santa Cruz.

Because it is landlocked, Bolivia's main link with the outside is commercial aviation.

Chilean National Airline [LAN], Eastern Airlines, Cruzeiro, Varig, Lufthansa and Aeroper are currently running regular services in addition to the Lloyd Bolivian Airline [LAB]. Not long ago Iberia, Colombian National Airways [Avianca] and Venezuelan International Airlines [Viasa] had their requests to operate in Bolivia turned down.

The route that Aeroflot is trying to obtain in Bolivia originates at the Viru Viru Airport of Santa Cruz, with La Paz to be just a stopover. Since there are no studies showing how profitable it will be for Aeroflot to operate in Bolivia, the advantages sought are obviously political liaison and the means for infiltration which will give the communists -- as part of their penetration strategy -- access to a key geographic location for disseminating their doctrines, which run contrary to freedom and human dignity. Thus, it is indispensible for government authorities who are in charge of an incipient aviation policy, to keep the people duly informed on the course the negotiations have taken. There has been enough maneuvering behind the backs of the people.

SENATOR ZAMORA CONSIDERS IMPEACHMENT OF SILES

PY311712 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Senator Oscar Zamora Medinacelli, second vice president of the Senate, yesterday stated that President Hernan Siles Zuazo's decision to confirm Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata in his post is an open provocation against the legislative branch, to which the current Democratic Popular Unity Front, UDP, government owes its installation on 10 October 1982. Senator Zamora added that actions to impeach the president will be initiated if he persists with his intention to confirm Minister Alvarez Plata, which is tacit approval of the latter's policy, which is fraught with violations of the Constitution. Federico Alvarez Plata was censured by the Senate for implementing an unconstitional policy.

[Begin Zamora recording] During the Senate's interpellation of the interior minister it was clearly established that the Interior Ministry has violated the provisions of the nation's Constitution. It was also ascertained that illegal arrests have been made, that psychological harassment was used to extract confessions, and finally that there is a dangerous repressive mechanism headed by Gustavo Sanchez [Interior Ministry under secretary]. These violations of the Constitution that gave rise to the censure motion must be ended by the executive branch. Otherwise, the president will be leaving the door open for his impeachment, because we cannot allow a government that has pledged to respect the Constitution of the nation to violate it openly. [end recording]

COB LEADER OPPOSES INTERIOR MINISTER CENSURE

PY311746 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] leader Gonzalo Guzman has indicated that to censure a minister who is working hard to preserve constitutional guarantees is a severe threat to the democratic process. The senators who have censured Minister Alvarez Plata are the very same persons who supported the most nefarious military regimes, he said, adding that this is the case of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], which on 29 August 1971 helped install an unprecedented period of violations of human rights, disappearances, exiles, and banishments, which the people, and especially the workers who had to bear the brunt of the consequences, will never forget. Guzman also recalled that the senators of the National Democratic Action, who now claim to be democratic, directly participated in Banzer's term in office between 1971 and 1978, and added that now they are calling for respect of human rights, when at that time they were the main violators of these rights. The censure motion approved by the Senate's right-wing majority is an open challenge to the workers movement and the democratic sectors of the nation, because it marks the beginning of regressive movements that the workers are not prepared to tolerate, according to Guzman, leader of the COB and president of the Railroad Workers Union.

JUNTA STUDIES SANCTIONS AGAINST MARXISTS

PY010222 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Excerpt] The junta has discussed a bill submitted by President Augusto Pinochet which establishes punishment for Marxist political groups. This has been announced in a press bulletin by the junta, which is the legislative organ.

The junta today held a special meeting presided over by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino.

According to the executive branch's message, the 1980 Constitution did not, and it never intended to, restore legal status to Marxist groups. On reasserting this, situation, the executive branch ordered that the individuals who create Marxist groups and movements be punished. The junta must adopt a decision on the bill within 60 days.

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE MEASURES REGARDING PROTEST

Subversives To Be Prosecuted

PY010240 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] The government has ordered that legal actions be filed against the individuals who have been promoting subversive actions and against the news media that support these actions and fail to respect the government. This has been announced by the interior minister because of the protest action called by opposition groups.

In the document, the government reiterated its decision to safeguard public order, and the security, property, and rights of the people in face of the criminal and vandalistic actions promoted by extremist groups and their allies during the so-called peaceful protest. The Interior Ministry concluded by recalling that extremism takes advantage of protest actions to cause casualties and to unleash violence in an attempt to hinder the process that the government and the people are conducting to attain total democracy.

Santiago Intendant Cited

PY031900 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Excerpts] Santiago Intendant Brigadier General Roberto Guillard has asserted that those who are most affected by terrorist attacks are the have-nots. He also stated that the Carabineros and security forces have already taken all necessary measures to safeguard public order in view of the protest call.

Gen Guillard also assured all Chilean parents that there is nothing to fear and that they should send their children to school because they will be duly protected. He said that the citizens should not worry about the protest call and should continue to carry out their daily activities normally.

The Santiago intendant ended by stating that the situation in all districts under his jurisdiction is complerely normal.

Activities Restricted in Rancagua

PY011717 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Rancagua, Chile, 1 Sep (AFP) -- The Rancagua office of the military commander today levied restrictions on the movement of people on 3, 4, and 5 September, when civilian protests against the government of President Augusto Pinochet are scheduled. Approximately 60,000 persons live in the Rancagua zone. They are mostly farmers or miners at the El Teniente copper mine, which is the largest underground mine in the world.

The military restrictions indicate that all stores, schools, movie theaters, and public places be closed from 2200 to 0530. From 0000 to daybreak, no vehicles may be on the streets, except police cars, fire trucks, military vehicles, ambulances, official vehicles, and buses that transport the miners to their work shifts.

The antigovernment protests have been organized by a broad spectrum of political and labor union opponents who demand the end of Pinochet's regime as the only way to overcome the great economic and social crisis, Chile's worst in the last 50 years.

Traffic Controlled

PY011945 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Enrique Acevedo Valdez report from Valparaiso]

[Text] The police forces will be in charge of public order during the days of protest, while the Armed Forces personnel will stay in barracks on alert. This was reported by the chief of the Valparaiso emergency zone, Vice Admiral Sergio Sanchez Luna, who added that all necessary measures are being taken. He also appealed to all citizens to maintain order and not to participate in disrupting public order, which may be promoted by professional agitators.

Meanwhile, the police forces have stepped up control over vehicles and pedestrians on the downtown streets and along the main roads linking the districts of this area. For example, last night the Carabineros and other security personnel carried out an intensive control operation that started at 2100 and continued through the night. It was particularly intensive in the area of Espana Avenue and (?Santos Osa), where there was considerable police deployment. They carefully searched cars and asked the passengers to show identification.

NEW AD PRESIDENT SAYS PROTEST WILL BE PEACEFUL

PY032140 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1955 GMT 2 Sep 84

[By Albino Mallo]

[Excerpt] Santiago, 2 Sep (EFE) -- Upon being inaugurated as the new president of the Democratic Alliance (AD), a multiparty group which opposes the military regime, Social Democratic Party leader Mario Sharpe has reaffirmed that the 4-5 September protest drive will be peaceful.

In accordance with the rotation procedure established among member parties of the AD coalition, Sharpe, who replaced Radical Party leader Enrique Silva Cimma, will be heading the AD during September and October and will be replaced by socialist leader Ricardo Lagos in November.

Rejecting reports indicating that acts of terrorism will possibly take place during this protest drive, Sharpe said: "those reports that groups had been organized to unleash violence are false and are part of efforts aimed at distorting the peaceful nature of this protest."

The AD has also rejected a warning issued by National Party members that terrorist groups from Bolivia and Peru, namely the Shining Path, were going to infiltrate into Chile. The AD terms this warning completely groundless, Sharpe said, since "the minister secretary general of government himself has said that there was absolutely no information about these extremists having entered the country."

FRENCH CONSULATE OCCUPIERS VACATE BUILDING

PA311310 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0438 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Bogota, 30 Aug (EFE) -- The 11 hooded persons who occupied the French Consulate in this capital peacefully on Thursday, vacated the building on their own, after the Colombian authorities agreed to investigate the death of 20 peasant leaders. The hooded persons had occupied the French Consulate headquarters at 1700 GMT on Thursday, when the consulate personnel were not on duty and only a few Colombians were there trying to obtain visas, according to officials of the embassy.

M-19'S ALVARO FAYAD ON BACKGROUND OF TRUCE

PM031404 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 25 Aug 84 p 2

[Alvaro Fayad, "second in command" of Colombia's April 19th Movement, interviewed by Jesus Ceberio in Bogota; date not given]

[Excerpts] Bogota -- "The truce signed with the government is not yet a peace settlement. It is an interlude that we have imposed on ourselves in order to achieve a democratic swing in a civilized manner. We are not making revolutionary demands, but doing something like what was done in Spain following Franco's death. If this is achieved, peace will come. If not, we will have to secure reforms no matter how. This is why we are still opposed to laying down our arms." This was said by Alvaro Fayad, second in command of the April 19th Movement [M-19], in a clandestine interview in Bogota hours before the cessation of hostilities.

Fayad denies that the truce is a result of his own weakness. "This is an exceptional instance of negotiations in a war situation. Neither side has been defeated here. This is why one cannot talk in terms of a constituent process, since the regime has not been destroyed. But neither can the national dialogue be a forum for raising anxieties, because we have not been annihilated either. It is a new path, in a country on the edge of civil war, to seek a solution to the national crisis via imaginative formulas."

M-19 believes that it was Jaime Bateman, the leader who died 15 months ago in an aircraft accident, who first suggested a path other than war in 1979. "At the time of the occupation of the Dominican Embassy our top leader told the country that it was necessary for us all to conduct a dialogue to seek paths other than that of the use of weapons.

"On that occasion," Alvaro Fayad, said, "he put forward a peace proposal based on four points -- the raising of the state of seige that had existed intermittently in Colombia since 1946, a general amnesty, the establishment of a truce, and the initiation of a national dialogue. Broadly speaking, this is what we are doing with Belisario Betancur."

No dialogue was possible with his predecessor, Julio Cesar Turbay. "His only response was to offer two amnesties that required our surrender. He was led by his defense minister, General Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, who was the one who said: 'Either they surrender or we finish them off.' We replied that we would neither surrender nor humiliate ourselves. His government's prestige became seriously tarnished by its militarism and human rights violations, to the extent that during the 1982 campaign the peace issue became the central topic."

In his first speech to the nation Betancur proffered a hand to the guerrillas, announced an amnesty, and undertook to carry forward a democratic swing. "That very day we informed him that we were willing to talk with him anywhere. When we left prison under the amnesty we went to Bolivar Square, where we stressed our desire for peace.

"But we said at the same time that there was an urgent need for reforms and that in order to achieve them a truce had to be negotiated. The president replied to us that the amnesty was the limit and that he could take no further steps."

The amnesty was followed by difficult months. "The paramilitary groups grew restless. During Betancur's first year in office 165 people's leaders and guerrillas who had benefited from the amnesty were killed -- more than during Turbay's last year, which was the worst. The public prosecutor published a list of 123 persons linked with the MAS (Death to Kidnappers) organization, including 42 military personnel, some of them high ranking, but the president did not support him."

"There were times when we feared that peace would not be possible. Otto Morales, president of the Peace Commission, resigned at the start of 1983, arguing that there were within the government concealed enemies of the process of pacification. The high command publicly opposed any steps. It was opposed not only to the dialogue with the guerrillas but to any kind of political relaxation and to the demilitarization of civilian life. We persisted in negotiating directly with Betancur and told him that if we were to order a cease-fire we would respond with the same measure."

Bateman remained obstinately committed to this process until his death. The writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez tried to organize a meeting in New Delhi, though in the end Betancur did not attend. "After the disastrous accident in Panama the new leadership took up the proposal of dialogue even more forcefully. We received the first response via Minister Bernardo Ramirez, with whom I spoke in Mexico."

On 8 October last year a historic meeting took place in Madrid between President Belisario Betancur and the top M-19 leaders, Ivan Marino Ospina and Alvaro Fayad. There the foundations were laid for the subsequent negotiations that led to this truce.

"The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia broke the guerrillas' agreement to conduct the negotiations jointly and signed their own agreement taking account only of the military aspect not of the people's viewpoint. We said all along that the truce was not designed to resolve the problem of a certain number of guerrillas, that it was not a matter of silencing the guns and no more, but that its purpose was to rally the entire country so that it could reach agreement on reforms."

What will happen now, when the weapons fall silent on 30 August? An M-19 committee will participate in the national dialogue, attempting to wrest all the reforms that the country demands. The fighters will remain in the same areas, devoting themselves now to political tasks, to teaching the peasants to read and write, and to organizing health programs -- but always very heedful of the course of the process, because we still have our weapons.

Many sectors doubt that the cessation of hostilities will be observed by the army or by the guerrillas themselves. "The assassination of Carlos Toledo Plata and other beneficiaries of the amnesty shows that we are willing to lay down our lives for this peace settlement. This is our guarantee that we are going to honor our commitments. But behind us there is an armed force and the army knows that it must honor the truce too, because otherwise war will resume, even if we have been killed."

ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS COUP RUMORS 'ABSURD'

PA040424 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Bogota -- Acting Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe asserted today that rumors about a coup d'etat in Colombia are absurd and slanderous. He also asserted his willingness to advocate the peace process. Nevertheless, the acting minister said there will be no peace as long as the kidnappings continue, and until the subversives' show [preceding word in English] is stopped in Corinto and El Hobo, in the southern sector of the country.

Vega Uribe recalled the presence of armed rebels, dressed in uniforms which are for the exclusive use of the army, days after the cease-fire was signed taking advantage of the fact that the region had been demilitarized to facilitate the historical agreement. However, the acting defense minister asserted that no major problems have been reported regarding public order since the cease-fire was signed with the guerrillas.

Regarding rumors of a coup d'etat, Vega Uribe said this is a campaign aimed at dividing the top military echelons that are now more united than ever. Therefore, whoever seeks this goal is wasting his time.

FORMER M-19 GUERRILLA ASSUMES POLICE DUTIES

PA021600 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 31 Aug 84 p 11

[Excerpt] The CARACOL radio network has reported in Bogota that the high military command has revealed its concern for the events taking place in Corinto, where 19 April Movement [M-19] leader Ivan Marino Ospina has practically became the local authority. The correspondent in that area reported that the guerrilla group installed a registry office with a sign saying they would welcome applications from 1400 to 2100.

The same radio network revealed that Ivan Marino Ospina, acting as a local authority, ordered the arrest of a considerable number of people for their alleged participation in thefts and brawls. In addition, he sentenced those participating in these events to live in exile in Popayan, telling them to "take their music elsewhere."

ELN REBELS ATTACK BRUSELAS; FOUR PERSONS KILLED

PA311657 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1554 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Bogota, 31 Aug (EFE) -- A group of guerrillas belonging to the Army of National Liberation(ELN) attacked the township of Bruselas, 800 km south of Bogota, killing four persons in the action. The attack by ELN, the only group which did not sign the truce that began yesterday, occurred the night before last, but it was not known until today because communications were cut.

According to reports by inhabitants, an ELN column entered the township of Bruselas, burned the police and telecommunications buildings, and killed four persons in the attack. The ELN remained for several hours in Bruselas, distributed propaganda among the population, and fled toward the mountains. The attack occurred a few hours after the cease-fire agreed to by the 19 April Movement (M-19), the People's Liberation Army (EPL), became effective. The ELN refused to sign the cease-fire.

BELAUNDE TO ADDRESS UN ON FOREIGN DEBT ISSUE

PY031512 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0145 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] The Peruvian voice will be heard at the United Nations at the end of the month. President Belaunde will speak during the opening session of the UN General Assembly. Among other issues, President Belaunde will speak on his austerity without recession thesis.

[Begin recording] [Belaunde] Our proposal that the funds provided by soft loan recipient governments be reduced to a minimum has been accepted. This means that the austerity without recession thesis has been approved. In view of this, and taking into account that these ideas have won the support of the continent, I will speak at the United Nations at the end of this month during a meeting that will be attended by other heads of state of the region. The time has come for Latim America to let its voice be heard, because it does not seek to aggravate but to solve problems.

[Reporter] Mr President: You have said that there will be meetings with members of the opposition. When will these meetings take place?

[Belaunde] We are in permanent contact. However, we have been very busy in recent days. The important thing now is the pacification of the country, which I hope we will attain. We are also very interested in completing some essential projects, like the Libertadores Highway. I had the satisfaction of beginning this project in my previous term. Now, with the Huaycara segment, the project has gained great significance. There is also the Cobriza-Ayacucho electrification program which is currently underway. (?This is another noteworthy project). We are very busy with all these projects. I believe that meaningful events will take place on 9 December, the day of Ayacucho.

[Reporter] Will you persist in your idea of pacifying the country?

[Belaunde] Of course. I have always believed that, as the saying goes, violence is nothing but the energy of fools. Therefore, I am against all kinds of violence.

[Reporter] What can the Peruvian people expect from your last months in office?

[Belaunde] In summary, above all, a house to live in, a land to live on, and a free life to enjoy. [end recording]

ENERGY MINISTER ON U.S. COPPER RESTRICTIONS

PY031344 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0145 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Shortly before leaving for Chile, where he will attend the 20th International Copper Exporting Countries Conference (CIPEC) meeting, Energy and Mines Minister Juan Inchaustegui said that Latin American copper exporting countries will adopt protectionist measures if the United States imposes restrictions on its copper imports.

PERCOVICH ON TERRORISM, POLITICAL CANDIDACY

PY032050 Lima Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca interviewed on "Panorama" program by Enrique Cirino; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Cirino] Rather than asking you about it, I wanted to tell you that bloody terrorist actions have intensified in recent days and in recent weeks. Do you have any explanation for this?

[Percovich] I believe we can give the following explanations: If we analyze subversive actions over the past 4 years since they appeared in our country, we will see that they have not developed regularly but in cycles of intensified action followed by periods of apparent recess. This is what has happened over the last few weeks and over the last few days. Terrorists intensify their actions after periods of apparent calm, attacking defenseless towns and police facilities and sabotaging public facilities.

[Cirino] Thus, we are in the middle of a particularly unfortunate period: 50 dead bodies turn up, 15 children are found to have been decapitated, 40 people die in other incidents, casualties on both sides. I wonder whether this means that we are in a state of civil war or, at least, that we are under the threat of a civil war that would justify the declaration of a state of siege in accord with the Constitution. As all know, a state of siege is much more serious and severe than a state of emergency. Is the government considering the possibility of declaring a state of siege?

[Percovich] No. The government has not considered that possibility because of the following reasons: First, even though this is an unconventional war against an aggression launched by unbalanced people who have plunged the country into a deep tragedy, the latest measures we have adopted will yield positive results in the antisubversive action. For example, we have empowered the Armed Forces Joint Command to plan, implement, and control antisubversive actions at the national level in case this becomes necessary. The Armed Forces has thus been assigned additional duties. I believe this is an important step. At the same time, it should be pointed out that antisubversive actions should not be of a repressive nature alone. They should be coupled with efforts to attain socioeconomical development in those areas that need preferential attention. This is what we have done so far.

[Cirino] Let me insist on the matter. Does the relief of General Huaman as chief of the Military-Political Command mean that the policy designed for Ayacucho and the neighboring departments of Apurimac and Huancavelica has changed? This policy has been strongly criticized and has even been said to be nonexistent. What is the current government policy in those departments?

[Percovich] As for the actions to be undertaken by the security forces, decisions are made by the joint command following the general policy designed by the National Defense Council. Now, in the socioeconomical area, the government has undertaken specific actions as is shown by these charts.

The government, within its possibilities, has promoted socioeconomical development in the emergency area. But the investment has been, undoubtedly, insufficient. The money invested in Peru and in the emergency areas can be compared with the use of water in dry land that has not received proper treatment for decades. Therefore, it will be necessary to increase our investments and to intensify socioeconomical development programs. These measures, in combination with the actions undertaken by the security forces, will once and for all eradicate subversion.

[Cirino] Minister: I have the news that you will leave next month to work for your candidacy. [words indistinct] given the delicate issues that your ministry has to handle, and taking into account that you will have to leave, wouldn't it be better to leave the post right now?

[Percovich] This is a decision to be made by the president of the Republic. I have repeatedly pointed out that from the very moment I was sworn in as minister I put my post at the disposal of the president. I believe all the other ministers have adopted the same attitude. This is not a merely theoretical statement. In our daily talks with the president we permanently touch on the subject and repeat that whenever he feels that we should leave the cabinet he should immediately tell us to take the appropriate steps. Therefore, this is not a personal but a government decision to be made by the president of the republic.

[Cirino] I mean that since you admit that you will run in the next elections, you are sort of a bill that has already come due.

[Percovich] No, because there are still many unresolved issues at the Interior Ministry and I want to solve them before my successor takes over. I believe that when the government is backed by a party there is continuity in government actions and there can be no situations such as ministerial terms that have already come due or that have to be shortened to let a successor take over. There is continuity in every post and successors must follow the policy that has been formulated.

[Cerino] Incidentally, will you run for president or for a seat in the Chamber of Deputies or the Senate? Will Popular Action insist in the political suicide involved in the candidacy [words indistinct] alliances?

[Percovich] In the first place, I will tell you, as I have said on many other occasions, that I am personally for the idea of an alliance between Popular Action and other parties provided there are coincidences in their doctrines programs of government. Concerning my individual situation, any decision is to be made by the party. I will not be a presidential ticket member because I already rejected this possibility during the party's 11th national congress. The party will decide on any other possibility, taking into account not only party but also national interests. I believe new leaders must be given the chance to appear on the political scene.

20 BODIES FOUND BURIED NEAR AYACUCHO

PY011323 Paris AFP in Spanish 2202 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Lima, 31 Aug (AFP) -- On 29 August, the authorities found 20 beheaded bodies in a common grave near Ayacucho, southeast of Lima. This news has been confirmed in Ayacucho, capital of Ayacucho Department, one of the most ravaged by terrorism. Judge Felix Bautista, who attended the removal of the bodies, was disturbed by the wantonness of the killings, since bones but not heads were found. In the first seven common graves found last week there were 50 bodies. This common grave was found by the side of a road at a site called Sacsaruni, 14 km from Ayacucho. The bodies were taken to the morgue in Ayacucho for the necessary examination, but there is doubt identifications can be made because the killings are estimated to have taken place late in June.

BLANCO PARTY DECRIES U.S. ENVOY'S 'INTERFERENCE'

PY312150 Paris AFP in Spanish 1549 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Montevideo, 31 Aug (AFP) -- Juan Pivel Devoto president of the board of directors of the traditional Blanco Party, has accused U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay Thomas Aranda of intervening in an issue outside his jurisdiction. Pivel Devoto said this in response to a statement Aranda has made on the Uruguayan political situation. Pivel Devoto maintained that Aranda's statement distorted the real situation.

A few days ago, the U.S. ambassador said that in Uruguay there is a conflict between the people who want to return to democracy and those who put personal and party interests before the restoration of democracy. The Blanco Party members understood that Aranda's statement was directly alluding to the attitude of their party and of their leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, who was detained following his return to the country on 16 June after 11 years in exile, and who was later prosecuted by a military court.

The traditional Blanco Party, which will participate in the general elections set for 25 November, has proposed the installment of a 1-year transition government and later the call for another election without proscribed officials and parties. This proposal has not been endorsed by any of the Uruguayan political parties, including the traditional Colorado (Liberal) Party.

Pivel Devoto said that the U.S. ambassador's statement was based on the views of another person (presumably the Colorado presidential candidate), adding that the remark he made later that he was neutral was senseless. Pivel Devoto concluded by stating that Aranda could have avoided such a clarification because there was no need for him to say that he is neutral.

Relations between the U.S. mission and the Blanco Party have deterioriated since Ferreira Aldunate's return to the country because the Blanco Party is accusing Ronald Reagan's government of supporting Colorado Party presidential candidate Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Protest to U.S. Embassy

PY010155 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Excerpt] The Blanco Party has lodged a protest with the U.S. Embassy over statements by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Aranda. Blanco presidential candidate Alberto Zumaran said that the ambassador's statements were unfortunate and reported that a protest had been lodged with the U.S. Embassy.

Leader Comments

PY010120 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Blanco Party leader Hector Lorenzo Rios today said that the Blanco Executive Board will not object to the candidate lists that Blanco minority factions have submitted to the electoral court. He also said that the incident with the U.S. ambassador is over.

[Begin recording] [Rios] We now are dedicated, with determination, to definitely outline our political-government action plan. We are working on this issue, [words indistinct] which is made up of the majority's Blanco presidential candidates, Zumaran and Gonzalo Aguirre, and of prominent experts in all fields who must naturally be included in our political-government action plan. Therefore, in a few days we will finish drawing up our plan, and we will try to release it publicly.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the difference of opinions with the U.S. ambassador over, now that the U.S. Embassy has issued a communique?

[Rios] Well, yes, I think so. As the president of the Blanco Executive Board, Juan Pivel Devoto, has said, obviously the incident was caused by a totally incorrect interference on the part of the U.S. ambassador in matters that exclusively concern the Uruguayan people, in this case the future election race. [end recording]

Demonstration at U.S. Embassy

PY040120 Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Sep (AFP) -- Hundreds of supporters of the traditional Blanco Party tonight staged a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy to protest the alleged favoritism adopted by the U.S. diplomatic mission with regard to the November general election in Uruguay. The demonstration was specifically designed to protest against remarks by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Aranda which were regarded as unfair allusions to the Blanco Party.

Aranda said a few days ago that in Uruguay there is a conflict between those who want to restore democracy and those who are just seeking to promote their personal and party interests.

Members of the Blanco Party, whose leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate is standing trial in a military court, considered that the ambassador's remarks reflected the well-known views of other political sectors. Relations between the U.S. Embassy and Ferreira Aldunate's supporters have deteriorated and there have been several accusations and clarifications made recently.

LEGAL CASE AGAINST FERREIRA TO BE EXTENDED

PY012257 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Excerpt] The release of Wilson Ferreira Aldunate before the national elections has been virtually ruled out. Following the request for information that the military trial judge has made to the national Directorate of Public Relations, DINARP, the time limit the judge has to hand down a ruling and to forward the case to the Supreme Court has been extended.

The request that has been made to DINARP has resulted in a break in the prosecution, which will be resumed after DINARP submits its report. The military judge initially had 90 days to issue a ruling. Afterward, the case will be passed on to the Supreme Court, which also has a specific time limit to make a decision.

EX-COMMUNIST DEPUTY JAIME PEREZ RELEASED FROM PRISON

PY311912 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Former Communist Deputy Jaime Perez has been released from prison. The Supreme Military Court this morning ordered his release from the Army prison in the City of Libertad. Upon being notified, his wife immediately went to Libertad, San Jose Department, to meet him. Perez had been imprisoned for about 10 years.

DE LA MADRID GIVES STATE OF NATION SPEECH

Discusses Economic Crisis

FL031358 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2135 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- In his second state of the nation speech today, President Miguel de la Madrid said that although by no means could it be said that economic victory had been achieved, Mexico was on the road to recovery and had overcome the dangers inherent in the economic crisis. He said that this crisis had not defeated Mexico, and that in fact the people were overcoming the crisis. He added that the government line was not simply to survive, but to follow a process of national renovation.

In his annual speech to Congress, composed of 82 pages and 35 topics, De la Madrid emphasized that moral renovation was the backbone of each society, and that even in crisis the country had not been paralyzed because a solid foundation of government institutions had been the best weapon against overcoming adversity. The president called for all Mexicans to help in overcoming the crisis because everyine has a skill with which to help in the construction of a new and better phase in the history of the country, due to Mexico greatness and its wonderful destiny.

De la Madrid acknowledged that the nation was still suffering from economic and social malaise, such as a deterioration in living standards and a decline in consumption due to inflation and the increase in the cost of living, which does not respect borders, ideologies, or ways of life. He said that what was important for Mexico was the preservation of social peace, unrestricted freedom, the perfecting of democracy, and the strengthening of Mexican institutions, for which it will continue to use democracy to provide impetus for popular advisement and participation because the government is only a part of society.

At the beginning of his speech, De la Madrid underscored that the economy had been restructured with firmness and discipline which had brought about a decrease in inflation and maintenance of the productive sector and employment. He added that economic indicators were gradually rising, and that the foreign debt and credit worthiness were improving.

De la Madrid said nevertheless inflation was still very high, growth slow, and employment generation insufficient, and that the improving economic situation had not been appreciably reflected in everyday family life where harsh economic measures had imposed great sacrifices on society.

He stressed that several basic tasks required structural and qualitative changes in their national development policies and strategies, among which was redirecting the industrial sector to enable more integration and competitiveness with the exterior. Within this framework, said the president, it is necessary to increase on permanent and strong bases, export capability and tourism, the production and distribution of food, and to decentralize economic and social progress to different parts of the nation.

He said that a priority task was to give progress to new dynamism through integral rural development, modernize the supply system and commerce, control urban growth, take care of ecology, increase employment, and fight economic and social inequality.

In reference to moral renovation, President de la Madrid said that while this fights corruption, it also was a positive and constructive element in the family, in schools, and in the places of work, encouraging adherence to the laws and rebutting violence and injustice.

Vows To Pay Foreign Debt

PA011914 Paris AFP in Spanish 1437 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Sep (AFP) -- President Miguel de la Madrid today reiterated Mexico's decision to meet obligations deriving from its foreign debt and reject actions that destabilize the world's economy, thereby hurting weak countries more than rich ones. The chief of state made this statement in the report he reads before Congress every year to account for the status of public administration as stated in the Constitution.

De la Madrid did not cite the debt figure, established 4 days ago by the Finance Secretariat at $66,751,000,000 (the public debt) and at 704 billion pesos, approximately $3.5 billion, (the private debt).

In his second government report, the president outlined a general program for economic recovery, comparing it to the grave crisis prevalent in 1982 when he took office, and admitted that the successive reorganizations of both debts have been of fundamental importance in improving Mexican finances.

Reiterating the country's decision to pay, De la Madrid noted that "an irresponsible attitude in regard to international credits could imply serious harm for the country because it would alter our economic relations abroad and would affect Mexico's prestige for many years."

Regarding the current negotiations for the reorganization of the debt, De la Madrid said that Mexico is involved in them "with serenity and firmness, with the weapons of reason and reality, in order to change international financing conditions."

"We have chosen," he said, "the path of economic realism because it is the right path for an effective and lasting solution of the problems and therefore it is basic to proving our political honesty."

The president also indicated that the country's position to negotiate the debt is now more solid because its international reserves have continued to become stronger. This reserve, he reported, amounts to $7,278,000,000 now compared to only $3,726,000,000 this time last year.

He remarked that victory over the crisis is beginning to emerge but at the same time he warned that "any premature triumphant attitude must be avoided." He said that his government "is seriously concerned about the low standard of living of poor and middle classes."

Referring to the plan for economic reorganization started by his administration, the president stressed that encouraging signs are being observed, such as a drop in the rate of inflation which reached 100 percent in 1982 and 80 percent in 1983 and is at 48 percent so far in 1984.

Other results mentioned in the report show that:

Productive plant and employment levels remain the same and economic indicators are gradually rising.

The improvement of public finances continues. The economic accounts with other countries are improving. The country's credit is recovering. The currency exchange is still under control (almost 200 pesos per dollar) and the monetary reserve is being rebuilt.

"However," the president stressed, "we still have economic and social maladies and the most serious and immediate is the deterioration of the standard of living and a drop in consumption, results of inflation and the high cost of living."

Domestic Issues

PA011828 Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Sep (AFP) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today warned that in the year 2000 Mexico's urban population will represent 75 percent of its inhabitants. The President, who read his second annual government report to parliament, recalled that the process of urbanization, of the growth of the cities, is one of the most outstanding characteristics of Mexico's development in the last few decades.

He said that according to definitive data obtained from a general census that began in 1980, the country's current urban population already represents two-thirds of the country's inhabitants. The metropolitan areas of the capital, one of the largest in the world with 17 million people, and of the cities of Guadalajara and Monterrey alone contain 26 percent of the country's total population, while the rural mass, which totals 22 million people, is dispersed into 123,000 towns with less than 2,500 inhabitants.

The president explained that for this reason, his administration's urban development program accords a prime role to the development of medium-sized cities in order to make large cities less crowded and regroup the dispersed settlements.

Alluding to the main problems in those urban centers, the president claimed that advances have been made in the protection of the capital city's environment, where 3 years ago 10 tons of lead and 340 tons of sulfur dioxide were released each day into the atmosphere. According to the report, reductions have been achieved in both cases, and now only 73 tons of sulfur dioxide are released into the atmosphere each day.

Concerning another of the important domestic issues discussed in the report, the president stressed the need to substantially decrease illiteracy, currently estimated, he said, at 5.7 million Mexicans. De la Madrid, whose government is developing a program known as educational revolution, announced that slightly over 700,000 persons have been taught to read and write in Mexico since September last year. The goal for 1988, when the present chief of state will conclude his mandate, calls for reducing to 4 percent the number of illiterate people among those over 15 years of age.

Central American Conflict

PA011932 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1859 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Sep (DPA) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today said that his government will continue working for a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis, because the violence which prevails in that region is a threat to his country's national security. The Mexican head of state referred to the regional crisis during the 2-and-1/2-hour annual report that he presented today to Congress regarding the state of the nation.

"We are highly concerned about the Central American conflict. We cannot remain indifferent regarding what is happening to our closest brothers. The violence which prevails in the area is a threat for our security," he said.

Miguel de la Madrid, who delivered his state of the nation speech to Congress today for the second time since being sworn in, read his report at the Legislative Palace in San Lazaro, the old sector of the city, to more than 2,000 guests.

When discussing his government's international policy, he said that the Contadora Group -- Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico -- prevented "the war from becoming a generalized conflict in the region," and "attained a dialogue which did not exist between the governments in the area." He added: "Mexico has used all its diplomatic resources for the peaceful negotiation of existing differences; however, we are quite aware that the solution depends on the parties' political will."

After pointing out the need for a peaceful solution based on the peaceful negotiation of differences, the leader said that the goals are to stop all hostilities, to control and decrease existing weapons, and to secure the parties' pledge not to support or tolerate the use of their territories for destabilizing actions against neighboring countries. He added that peace is a necessary condition to solve the "basic problems" which, according to the Mexican president, are mainly based on social and economic backwardness and the lack of stable democratic organizations. "A dignified and honorable peace among Central American countries will continue to be a priority goal in our foreign policy, in addition to our willingness to cooperate in their economic and social development and to advocate their peoples' traditional vocation for economic integration," he concluded.

FOREIGN DEBT SAID TO EXCEED $86 BILLION

FL032346 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0115 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Jesus Silva Herzog Flores today reported that the Mexican foreign public debt is $66 billion and the private foreign debt is slightly more than $20 billion. He added that Mexico is restructuring its foreign debt and that to date the debt negotiations and the nature will be able to grow more rapidly [as received].

He said that on Wednesday the Secreatirat of Finance and Public Credit will hold a press conference to make known the details of the negotiations.

Silva Herzog was interviewed next to the National Palace, where he had gone to greet President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado on the occasion of his second government report.

EXPORTS TO CUBA INCREASE; TRADE SURPLUS REPORTED

FL031934 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1810 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Foreign Trade Institute (IMCE) has reported that Mexico increased it sales to Cuba during 1984 and that during the first 5 months it had a trade surplus of $200,416,000. It reported that during these 5 months, sales to Cuba were for $26,954,000, imports for $6,538,000, and it was expected that the export volume would continue to increase during the rest of the year.

Mexico also registered a surplus in 1983, although for less, which was for $9,786, because total sales for this period were $35,319,000 against imports of $25,533,000.

IMCE's forecasts for the rest of 1984 are optimistic because Mexican products, which are needed in Cuba, are constantly under promotion there. Such an event began last Sunday in Havana in which 88 public and private businesses participated.

PRESIDENT-ELECT DISCUSSES POLICIES, GOALS

PA310427 Panama City Circuit RPC Teleivion in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 84

[President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barletta speech to the nation and members of the work committees on 30 August at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen: After the May and June elections, we have undertaken an important task which should lead to the nation's recovery. As president-elect of the Republic and on behalf of all Panamanians, I want to express my appreciation for the exceptional job done by a large number of distinguished citizens who participated in the work committees which were in charge of examining the country's situation and submitting definite solutions to the problems that are affecting the country.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to the enthusiastic and objective response you gave to my call to work for the future of Panama. I must thank you for the deep interest you have invested in your work during the past months. I realize that you put all your intelligence and capacity to work at the service of democracy and the betterment of our country into this effort. I wholeheartedly congratulate you for the valuable results of this democratic effort.

Public administration urgently needs to be updated, so that it can satisfactorily meet the demands of economic and social development which can no longer be postponed. The state's institutions and public officials exist to serve all Panamanians without exception, and it should be so efficient as to deserve the respect and pride of the citizens. Public services must meet the demands of the growing population that pays for these services and that is not willing to accept inefficiency or poor service.

Regional, provincial, and municipal administration should be implemented so as to meet local demands. It should also have the necessary resources to promote economic development and social improvement in the country's communities.

The administration of justice is going through a period of crisis that is creating a lack of confidence in the foundations of our republican institutions. However, the judicial system has already made an effort to solve the crisis. It is necessary that we all cooperate in supporting this effort. I will firmly support it, because the country needs a judicial system that is impartial and efficient to the satisfaction of the citizens.

We must establish mature relations, based on mutual respect, with the United States, a power with which we have very special geographic, historic, and human links.

We cannot overlook the threat to our peace, tranquillity, and prosperity resulting from the economic and social difficulties affecting Latin America, as well as the tensions and conflicts affecting the region, particularly the Central American drama. What is happening next to us should be a lesson to us and serve to strengthen our conviction of the importance of peaceful understanding, reconciliation among different groups, social justice, citizens' participation, tolerance of political pluralism, and respect for democratic institutions. We will give full support to the Contadora Group effort, of which we are a part.

Beginning 11 October, I will be leading the national crusade to solve our problems. We have serious problems, but none are beyond our capacity for struggle and work. If we work together, we can solve our problems.

We are going to have a strong government which inspires authority and respect for institutions, the laws of the Republic, and each citizen. I promise that my administration will be characterized by the most absolute honesty.

We want to strengthen social peace based on real participation, the exercise of justice, respect for man's dignity, and tolerance; a social peace built through a constructive effort by all the men and women of good faith who comprise the majority of the Panamanian nation; a social peace based on facing the urgent needs of economically poor and neglected Panamanians and urging them to participate in solving their problems.

To fulfill these aspirations, we are preparing a government plan based on the political platform on which I made my electoral commitment and on the valuable reports I have received from the working committees, labor groups, civic organizations, political parties, especially the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, and a large number of citizens.

We are living through difficult moments, but the time is good. It is not going to be easy, but it will be productive. I invite all Panamanians of good faith to build the society and country we all want.

ARDITO BARLETTA TO VISIT SPAIN IN EARLY OCTOBER

PA281831 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Aug 84

[Text] Official sources in Madrid have confirmed that Panamanian President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barletta will travel to Spain the first week of October on a private visit at the invitation of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Ardito Barletta will be inaugurated on 11 October.

ETA MEMBERS CONFINED TO FDN'S TINAJITA GARRISON

PA011815 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1641 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Panama City, 1 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The eight members of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty Organization, ETA, who are in Panama are now confined to the military garrison in Tinajitas near this capital, it was learned here today. Reliable sources who chose to remain anonymous said that the "Etarras" were taken to the garrison by the National Defense Forces [FDN] of Panama in view of the uneasiness caused by their presence among the inhabitants of Gorgona, their previous place of residence.

Juan Carlos Arriaran, Jose Ignacio Otaegui, Jose Angel Urtiaga, Ascension Maria Arrate, Julian Tena, Juan Jose Aritizabal (all of the ETA military wing) and Juan Antonio Zurutuza and Juan Luis Zuzuarregui (of the autonomous anticapitalist commands) arrived in Panama between June and July after being expelled from France. At the beginning they were installed in Gorgona, a beach resort on the Panamanian Pacific coast, 70 km west of the capital, where they moved about with total freedom.

The sources stated that the "Etarras" are not detained and, although they do not leave the garrison's premises, they can make telephone calls. It is not known how long they will remain in Tinajitas, but the sources said that a new place in Panama is being sought to transfer them.

COSTA RICA

MONGE CLARIFIES STATEMENTS ON CONTADORA

PA010401 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0112 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] San Jose, 31 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge told ACAN-EFE tonight that his statements on Contadora, which he made on Thursday, "were mininterpreted."

President Monge told ACAN-EFE: "What I really said was that Contadora's margin for negotiations has narrowed dangerously. Contadora appears to have reached a point from whence it will be very difficult to continue. I did not say, however, that Contadora is a total failure."

Costa Rican newspapers said today that Monge had asserted that Contadora has reached its limits and that Central America's pacification process should be entrusted to the OAS in the future. This afternoon Costa Rica Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez sent a letter to the four Contadora foreign ministers stating that the national newspapers had attributed a "sensationalist interpretation" to the president's statements.

GUTIERREZ ON CONTADORA MEETING, BERROCAL TRIP

PA312011 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez stated yesterday afternoon that the meeting of the Contadora Group's technical commission that ended several days ago in Panama City does not mark the end of the Contadora peace efforts. The Contadora Group's foreign ministers have decided to hold a new meeting on 5 September to set the date for a meeting with their Central American counterparts to resolve the obstacles and problems that arose in Panama, he indicated.

Gutierrez said that Nicaragua's position poses the most cumbersome obstacles to negotiation because that government maintains that its electoral obligations are a domestic problem and that it will not accept any restrictions on arms control in view of the fact that its military problem is caused by the United States.

[Former Presidency Minister] Fernando Berrocal will go to South America to meet with leaders there to learn their views on the Central American problem and on whether the OAS should be called in to continue the peace efforts if the Contadora Group process fails, the foreign minister said. He added that Berrocal will also promote his own candidacy to the vice presidency of the OAS during his trip through Latin America and the Caribbean. Minister Gutierrez stated that if the same postures that obstructed the meeting of the Contadora Group's technical commission in Panama crop up again in the meeting with the Central American foreign ministers then one will be forced to admit that the Group is finished. The advantage that exists now is that the detailed nature of the Peace and Cooperation Act and the various countries' clearly positive or negative reactions to specific points of that document will prevent the parties from responding with vague proposals, he explained.

It is valid to say that the recent meeting in Panama was technical and at the level of deputy ministers. There were even two countries that did not send representatives, including Honduras, Gutierrez concluded.

PRESIDENT MONGE'S SPECIAL ENVOY VISITS MEXICO

PA040432 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Fernando Berrocal, former Costa Rican minister of the Presidency, met with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda on Friday. Berrocal was acting as a special envoy for President Luis Alberto Monge. He delivered a letter from the Costa Rican President to Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. Fernando Berrocal explained to the Mexican authorities Costa Rica's viewpoints regarding the Central American crisis and the results of the peace efforts being made by the Contadora Group.

Fernando Berrocal has been officially nominated as a candidate for the office of assistant secretary general of the OAS.

According to EXCELSIOR and other Mexican newspapers, President Monge's special envoy underscored the urgent need to revamp the OAS and give it hemispheric importance as contained in the OAS charter. Fernando Berrocal has been officially nominated by Costa Rica as a candidate for the office of assistant secretary general of the OAS. Berrocal, accompanied by Gonzalo Facio Segreda, former Costa Rican foreign minister, traveled to the Dominican Republic and Haiti today where he will meet with the foreign ministers of these countries.

Discusses Relations

FL011928 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- After denying that relations between Mexico and Costa Rica have deteriorated, that country's Minister of the Presidency Fernando Berrocal [as received] stressed that his country's support for the Contadora Group will remain inalterable. Upon arrival in this capital representing Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge at the second government report of President Miguel de la Madrid, Berrocal reiterated that there are no differences between the two countries, even though he acknowledged that the Contadora negotiations have not made progress. Referring to his visit to Mexico, he said he will deliver a message from Monge to President De la Madrid, and added that he will also meet with Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor with whom he will examine the Central American situation.

Likewise, he said he will report to Sepulveda Amor on the meeting held by the foreign ministers of the European Community, Spain, and Portugal with their counterparts of Contadora and other Central American countries. Berrocal added that he will also discuss with Mexican officials Costa Rica's proposals to revise the OAS. Local sources believe that the Costa Rican minister will request Mexican support in the effort to win the Under Secretariat of the OAS, as has already been done with other Latin American countries.

CENTRAL BANK DEVALUES COLON BY 1.7 PERCENT

PA032141 Paris AFP in Spanish 1650 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] San Jose, 3 Sep (AFP) -- Last night the Costa Rican Central Bank decided to devalue the colon by 1.70 percent, bringing the national currency's parity with the U.S. dollar to 44.50 colones. Until yesterday, the exchange rate per dollar in the national banking system was 44.25 for sales and 43.75 for purchases; however, the rate today increased to 45.0 and 44.50 respectively. This is the third time this year that the colon has been devalued. The first devaluation occurred on 29 May, when the price of the dollar rose from 43.65 to 44 colones. Central Bank spokesman said that the institution's "economic indicators" showed that the measure, which was also recommended by the IMF, was necessary. In addition, an IMF mission will arrive in the country this week and, together with local experts, will revise and update a letter of intent signed with President Luis Alberto Monge's government last March. It was learned that the estimates in this letter of intent will be calculated at a rate of 45 colones per dollar.

EL SALVADOR

TENORIO DISCUSSES BORDER TALKS WITH HONDURAS

PA020148 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio interviewed by unidentified reporter; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Reporter, -- recorded in progress] ...taking into consideration that there have been reports quoting the Honduran Foreign Secretary on problems in Honduran-Salvadoran relations, and that El Salvador is acting too slowly regarding efforts to solve the border problem. Can you expand on this?

[Tenorio] First, I thank Radio Cadena Sonora for the opportunity to address the Salvadoran people, our dear Salvadoran people, and to send them an affectionate greeting on behalf of Dr Acevedo [not further identified] and myself. We wish to report that we went to the sister Republic of Honduras yesterday where we visited the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and specifically met with Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica. The visit was carried out in a cordial atmosphere and it had a general goal: to further strengthen the ties which exist with the neighboring nation and other general topics, including the border situation, the refugee problem, commercial relations, and other topics of mutual interest, specifically the efforts of the Contadora Group.

I can assert, just as it was reported by international news agencies, that the meeting can be described as successful. Any misunderstanding which prevailed in the past was nothing more than that, a misunderstanding. When we talked about the border delimitation, we discussed it at length and reached the conclusion that it is necessary to step up the process. Of course, this will be done within the deadlines and framework established by the general peace treaty signed in October of 1980. Regarding this matter, the Honduran Secretariat and Salvadoran Foreign Ministry have pledged that the corresponding prders will be issued to each country's commission so that they step up the delimitation process instead of waiting until the deadlines have expired. It is possible that, within an atmosphere of understanding and brotherhood, the process might be concluded even before the established deadlines.

I understand that the deadlines expire in October or November 1985. Then, we would begin legal procedures at the International Court of Justice at The Hague to discuss whatever points are not settled during the direct negotiations phase, which is currently under way. Therefore, I can reiterate to the Salvadoran people that we are defending Salvadoran interests; in addition, we are abiding by the letter and spirit of our political Constitution and the 1980 general peace treaty.

We found an atmosphere of comradeship and brotherhood in Honduras. We held lengthy and affable meetings with Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica regarding these topics. We believe that both the Honduran Government and Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica are wholly inclined toward reaching a happy conclusion regarding the delimitation process. We believe that any publication, note, or message which may have been issued has been misinterpreted. Dr Paz Barnica has no ill feelings regarding the delimitation process. We also told him that the Salvadoran border delimitation commissions -- much less the Foreign Ministry -- has no ill feelings either.

I wish to clearly tell the Salvadoran people about our strict compliance with the law because President Jose Napoleon Duarte is firmly convinced that this process should be followed up as quickly as possible. In addition, we must exert ourselves to achieve peaceful and negotiated solutions, thus avoiding having to take this case to court, since this is always onerous for economies such as ours -- which is not at its best.

[Reporter] Regarding your trip to Honduras, we heard that the Salvadoran refugees living in that country have experienced serious problems. Have you any information on this?

[Tenorio] Yes, of course. Regarding the refugees, the first repatriation of our fellow citizens has already taken place. Yesterday, we met with members of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and we all agreed on the need to step up our efforts to repatriate as many fellow citizens as wish to return, and to treat those who wish to remain there in the best possible way. The relocation of these refugees within our national territory is not precisely the Foreign Ministry's purview. Instead, this is being handled by the Interior Ministry, our Interior Ministry, and the National Commission for Aid to Displaced Persons, Conades, which is part of the interior or government Ministry. Nevertheless, since this problem deals with Salvadoran people living abroad, the Foreign Ministry has intervened in the matter and issued instructions to its embassy and consulates in Honduras so that they defend our fellow citizens interests. We know that the Honduran Government sincerely wishes to help our people; we are sure of that.

However, it is not easy to handle such large numbers of people, thousands of people, and to give them adequate attention. Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Costa Rica are countries with weak economies that suffer in the event of massive immigrations because we do not have the necessary infrastructures and the necessary economic means to haldle this. A lack of help or attention could be misinterpreted and lead to the belief that friendly governments, with whom we have the most cordial and closest -- above all, most fraternal -- relations, are not acting accordingly. This is not true. The Salvadoran people can rest assured -- and we wish to assert this to all our fellow citizens -- that neighboring countries are helping to the extent of their capabilities, even though they are limited, with their best intentions and willingness.

[Reporter] Regarding our relations with Nicaragua and following President Jose Napoleon Duarte's statements on the topic, what is the Foreign Ministry's stand?

[Tenorio] As I previously stated, our relations with the sister Republic of Nicaragua are unfortunately cold, due to Nicaraguan foreign policy and a series of events which question their goodwill towards the Salvadoran people and government. We have deplored the behavior... the statements by certain Nicaraguan leaders and have asserted this at every possible forum and meeting. In addition, they have taken specific actions that have endangered the peace and public order in El Salvador. This is not the best way to maintain fraternal and close relations.

As far as we are concerned, we have continued to abstain from interfering in the Nicaraguan affairs; we have respected Nicaraguan sovereignty and territorial integrity; and we have tried to help whenever Nicaragua has experienced economic problems. Nevertheless, they have not reciprocated with a similar attitude or behavior.

[Reporter] What about the results of our statement at The Hague?

[Tenorio] We have reiterated that we are not trying to take legal action through a lawsuit or [word indistinct] in legal language. Instead, we presented a statement to report that we had been referred to by Nicaragua. Nicaragua referred to us in its lawsuit against the United States at the International Court of Justice at The Hague. Since Nicaragua stated that we have never worried about intervention in our internal affairs, we sent a statement. It is not a lawsuit or the beginning of any legal action. It is merely a statement; therefore, we do not expect any specific results. We only wanted the high court to take note of the protest and of the fact that we cannot agree with the abuse, interventions, and other actions which endanger the Salvadoran people's lives and properties.

[Reporter] Lastly, Dr Tenorio, we would like to ask you about the Contadora Group. Last week Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge said that the group has reached a stalemate and is doomed to fail. In your opinion, what progress has been achieved?

[Tenorio] I would like to tell you that we perceived pessimism in President Monge's statement because the Costa Rican and other Central American democracies are impatient to achieve peace. The four Central American countries [as heard] -- El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica -- are anxious to see the Contadora Group's efforts achieve an authentic, stable peace in the Central American area. Unfortunately, sometimes the process seems to have reached a stalemate. Therefore, people believe that the Contadora Group, which is still the best option for peace, is doomed to fail. As far as we are concerned, we feel optimistic and believe we should continue to struggle toward this goal. We feel that the Contadora Group's alternative -- if its 21-point document is fully complied with -- will eventually achieve peace for Central America.

Unfortunately, not all of the countries are equally willing to exert themselves in this concern. They are always creating obstacles to delay the achievement of our goal. Nevertheless, we believe that as long as there is a way to dialogue, as long as we negotiate in a reasonable way, and as long as we really advocate peace, we will eventually achieve something.

ARENA'S D'AUBUISSON APPLIES FOR U.S. VISA

WA040810 Rome IPS in English 30 Aug 84

[Text] San Salvador, Aug 30 (IPS) -- Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the extreme right opposition in El Salvador, has applied for a visa to visit the United States shortly, State Department sources told IPS today.

The officials, who asked to remain anonymous, said the visa request probably would be approved, despite evidence earlier this year that D'Aubuisson may have directed an aborted assassination plot against Washington's ambassador in El Salvador, Thomas Pickering. The leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) was given a visa to come to the United States after the assassination reports surfaced, but was welcomed cooly by U.S. and congressional officials. D'Aubuisson has been widely accused of involvement in El Salvador's notorious military-linked death squads.

He was denied entry into the United States until 1982, when he led ARENA to a strong electoral showing in Constituent Assembly elections there. He became the president of the Assembly. But in November 1983, when allegations of his connections with death squads re-surfaced, he was denied a visa. D'Aubuisson was denied a visa early this year when he was the ARENA presidential candidate in the May elections. After Duarte defeated D'Aubuisson in the May run-off, however, the ARENA leader's request was granted.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA

PA012131 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Guatemala has reaffirmed its support for the Contadora Group. The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry has once again reaffirmed its support for the Contadora Group. Guatemala believes that Contadora continues to be a viable forum to find a solution to the Central American problem. This statement was made by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran. The foreign minister added that Guatemala is prepared to participate in a meeting at the foreign ministers level if such a meeting is convoked by the Contadora countries soon. He said that the Central American countries must make efforts to break the impasse that developed at the latest meeting of the technical group composed of the Central American deputy foreign ministers.

The minister said Guatemala hopes that the five Central American countries have the will to continue dialogue and negotiations. He said he does not believe in solutions that would involve military confrontations and that would be disastrous for the Central American region and affect all of the Central American people. The foreign minister said Guatemala calls on the Central American countries to comply with the document of objectives that was approved a year ago, a document that defends principles that facilitate reconciliation and pluralism, and permits the necessary political openings. Diaz-Duran said that as long as the Central American countries do not comply with this document, the problems of subversion and foreign meddling will continue threatening the area. He said that efforts must be made to promote a spirit of compromise that implies concessions and flexibility, not rigid positions. He said that the Guatemalan people and government are committed to the process of returning to democratic institutionality and national reconciliation, and that this has been promoted through the amnesty that is currently in effect and through other measures that have allowed the reintegration of the people of the high plains who had been affected by violence.

The foreign minister concluded by saying that when the governments agree to accept plans that call for verification and supervision in security matters, to a reduction in the arms buildup, and to reestablishing a climate suitable for free elections, the Contadora Group effort will advance.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA DISCUSSES DEMARCATION, CONTADORA

PA012303 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2120 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica press conference at the Presidential Palace; reporters not identified -- live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] What is your opinion of Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge's remark that the alternative for peace in Central America is the OAS and not Contadora?

[Paz Barnica] Contadora is a Latin American forum created over 1 and 1/2 years ago, that is, in January 1983, to find a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. Contadora has been involved in firm, impartial, and constant efforts for peace. We have made substantial progress, but there are basic aspects regarding political matters, methods for international control and verification, and security in which no progress has been made because there are two positions: that of four countries and that of Nicaragua. Nicaragua opposes the implementation, better said, the acceptance of the document of objectives which constitutes a basis for a draft document for peace and cooperation in Central America. We feel that we must continue to promote Contadora and that the OAS is a viable alternative because it is the main organ of the Inter-American juridical system for the solution of international controversies through peaceful means. In any case, the 17th Meeting of OAS Foreign Ministers held in 1979 to examine the Central American situation, especially that of the Nicaraguan revolution, issued a resolution which contributed to the overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza and (?that) meeting is still open [as heard]. I believe the OAS was created precisely for this and it continues to be an alternative for an opportune moment. Furthermore, I pay homage and respect, and express my recognition of the Contadora Group for its great efforts for regional peace. However, let's be sincere, Nicaragua is the bottleneck.

[Reporter] If El Salvador agrees to establish border limits in exchange for the training of Salvadoran troops here, when will this demarcation be completed?

[Paz Barnica] No, what happens is that we have a general peace treaty which establishes stages for direct negotiations and for resorting to the legal path, the International Court of Justice. The direct negotiations stage, which is currently under way, will conclude at the end of next year. A few days ago, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio visited our country and reiterated President Duarte's promise to speed up the direct negotiations for demarcation. On 22 and 23 September, the joint border commissions of the two countries will meet here again to continue to boost this process. We trust that we can make progress through direct negotiations.

[Reporter] What progress has been made in the delimitation and demarcation work?

[Paz Barnica] No, there have been no advances. I have already mentioned this and have explained the reasons. However, we trust that henceforth Duarte's government will foster these negotiations for the sake of the demarcation of the border between Honduras and El Salvador based on the general peace treaty. We trust this will happen. We must abide by the treaty.

[Reporter] Are you confirming that the Salvadoran Government has been using dilatory tactics to avoid delimiting the border?

[Paz Barnica] Let's wait for the next meeting of the joint commissions set for 22 and 23 September when there will be new proposals within the framework of the General Peace Treaty. This will be a clear sign that the Salvadoran foreign minister and President Duarte -- with whom I spoke over the telephone on Friday -- are bent on fostering the process of direct negotiations for the delimitation and demarcation of the border. I have never said that there are any secret commitments between President Duarte and the Honduran Government. We do have a General Peace Treaty which is a legal framework that imposes obligations for direct negotiations, through legal means, with specific time period.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the delimitation and demarcation of the border between Honduras and El Salvador is at the (?1979) stage?

[Paz Barnica] No, in no way because the General Peace Treaty established limits for three-fourths of the border. Therefore, one-fourth of the border remains to be delimited. We must establish border marks for the areas already settled in the treaty, and decide on limits for the areas not covered by the treaty commonly known as zones of controversy. It is with regard to these aspects that the diplomatic mechanism of direct negotiations is being used.

[Reporter] So, no progress has been made since 1980 when the treaty was signed?

[Paz Barnica] There has been no substantial progress.

[Reporter] The thesis of Dr Ramon Ernesto Cruz is that this matter should be taken to the OAS and not to the International Court of Justice, taking into account that there are many countries in the OAS instead of taking this matter to four presidents who would decide the fate of the border conflict.

[Paz Barnica] What four presidents are you talking about?

[Reporter] The Contadora Group.

[Paz Barnica] Our border conflict is not being handled by the Contadora Group. I'd like you to become better informed. The International Court of Justice is the most respected and largest judicial organization in the world. It is made up of 15 judges that do not represent particular countries and are elected by the UN General Assembly.

[Reporter] Is it true that there will be a meeting of Central American presidents and that President Suazo Cordova will first meet, bilaterally, with the Salvadoran president?

[Paz Barnica] I have no knowledge or specific information regarding that. What I want is a meeting of the nine foreign ministers, the five Central American ministers and the four Contadora ministers soon to discuss and better define positions because Nicaragua continues to be a bottleneck in our effort to advance within the Contadora process. Nicaragua opposes the political aspect, which is fundamental, the security aspect, and the mechanisms of international control and verification.

NICARAGUA

REPORTAGE ON DOWNING OF FDN HELICOPTER

Defense Ministry Communique

PA012342 Paris AFP in Spanish 2320 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Managua, 1 Sep (AFP) -- The Defense Ministry has reported that the Sandinist Army today downed a Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] helicopter engaged in an attack against a Nicaraguan military base.

The helicopter, which was "supposedly coming from Honduras" with three other unidentified fighter planes, attacked the Santa Clara base located less than 30 km from the Honduran border, according to the military bulletin. The terse official communique admitted that the base suffered some damage, although it did not give further details on damages or casualties. The report did not specify which type of helicopter had been downed or the fate of the crew.

Ortega Blames U.S., Honduras

PA020242 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] Managua, 1 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government tonight blamed the United States and Honduras for the air raid against a military installation in the northern area of the country where four children and one civilian died, the three women were wounded.

Daniel Ortega, top Sandinist leader, said the aggression was perpetrated by three "push-and-pull" airplanes and a helicopter, which "flew in tactical combat formation for the first time when attacking a Nicaraguan objective." The helicopter, which was part of the squad, was shot down by anti-aircraft batteries located at the school-base which was being attacked, and its three crew members died, the coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government for National Reconstruction asserted.

The attack was aimed at a military service school near Santa Clara, Nueva Segovia Department, 300 km north of Managua. The Nicaraguan leader said that two of the crew could not be identified because the corpses were completely burned, the third crew member apparently jumped from the aircraft and died when he hit the ground. "He was a tall, blond man," Ortega said; however, the dead man's identification has not been yet revealed. Ortega pointed out that the helicopter fell 100 meters away from the base.

Ortega told the journalists who were accompanying him on a political tour that no soldiers were wounded at the school-base as a result of the air raid. The two dead children were relatives of people working at the base. The wounded women were cooks at the military installation. Ortega reported that the "enemy squad" launched 12 rockets against the base.

"The attack has further involved the Honduran Government in U.S. imperialism's aggressions against Nicaragua that are being launched through the CIA," the leader said. Ortega also pointed out that all of these attacks against Nicaraguan objectives included the participation of "espionage flights" which facilitate information to the "counterrevolution" so that it may perpetrate its aggressions. Ortega said that the Foreign Ministry is preparing a protest note which will be lodged against the U.S. Government for this "new aggression" against his country.

Relatives To Receive Bodies

PA032002 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Official sources have disclosed that the Sandinist government will turn over to their relatives the bodies of the first two U.S. mercenaries killed in action in northern Nicaragua this weekend when a Nicaraguan Democratic Force helicopter was downed.

Defense Minister Humberto Ortega said today that, out of respect for the U.S. people, we are willing to deliver the bodies as soon as they are identified. The information about the nationality of two of the three helicopter crew members was supplied in the United States by a Democratic senator who said that the mercenaries arrived in Honduras last week to join the war against the Managua government.

The Nicaraguan press published pictures today of one of the three crew members who, it is believed, is an American. However, it warned that identification of the other two will be very difficult because their bodies were burned in a fire that destroyed the helicopter. Nicaraguan Defense Ministry sources reported that the name Mario Pocillo was written in a boot of one of the attackers, indicating that he could have been a Puerto Rican citizen. It is also possible that one of the crew members was a Honduran. The fighter shown in the picture shows a bullet wound in his right eyebrow which could have been received as he parachuted from the helicopter a few moments before it was downed, official sources concluded.

Talks With U.S. To Continue

PA021701 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] Managua, 2 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- Although Nicaragua blamed the United States for the latest air attack on a military installation, new bilateral talks between the two countries are contemplated, top Sandinist leader Daniel Ortega has stated.

The coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction stated at a press conference last night that such talks will test "the good faith on both sides" or whether the United States will maintain "aggression" against this Central American country. Ortega blamed the United States and Honduras for yesterday's air attack on a military base in Santa Clara, 300 km north of Managua, which caused the death of five persons, including four children, and wounded three women.

The attack was staged by three "push-and-pull" [given in English] aircraft and a helicopter which was downed by the Sandinist antiaircraft guns and its three crew members were killed, Ortega added.

The JGRN coordinator and FSLN presidential candidate said that Nicaragua is preparing a protest to be sent to the United States, although he noted that the bilateral talks will continue. Ortega did not specify the date or place of the talks.

Since the last visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Managua in early June, U.S. and Nicaraguan diplomatic representatives have met on four occasions, three times in Manzanillo (Mexico) and once in Atlanta (United States) to attempt a "thawing out."

Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco headed the Nicaraguan delegation and Harry Shlaudeman, special ambassador of the White House in Central America, headed the U.S. delegation in these contacts. Tinoco told ACAN-EFE last Sunday that the dialogue and bilateral negotiations between the United States and Nicaragua are "fundamental" to peace in Central America. "To the extent that the United States and Nicaragua normalize relations, they will be making a fundamental contribution to peace in the region and the Contadora (Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela) efforts will be facilitated," Tinoco stated.

The Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister added that his country wants "dialogue and a serious negotiation" with Washington which implies "a reciprocal process of concessions." According to Tinoco, the "basic problem" blocking a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis is the "military policy of the U.S. administration."

Protest Note Sent to U.S.

PA030049 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0021 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Managua, 2 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- Today Nicaragua sent the first protest note of September to the U.S. Government. This time it was to protest Saturday's anti-Sandinist air attack on a military base-school in northern Nicaragua. The Sandinist protest referred to the case of the downing of the "helicopter gunship" that, along with three airplanes, participated in the attack on the military installation at Santa Clara, in Nueva Segovia Department on the border with Honduras. Four children and one adult were killed, and three women who worked in the base kitchen were wounded in the attack. The three crewmen of the downed helicopter were also killed. Official reports indicate that no Sandinist soldiers were killed or wounded. The note is signed by Acting Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera and is addressed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

On 29 August, the Managua Foreign Ministry sent a note to the White House to protest the incursion into national territory of an anti-Sandinist C-47 airplane that was also downed in the mountains of northern Nicaragua.

ORTEGA REITERATES SUPPORT OF CONTADORA GROUP

PA021557 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, yesterday reiterated that Nicaragua continues to support the Contadora Groups' peace effort. He added that the Nicaraguan Government received reports from Costa Rica denying alleged statements by President Luis Alberto Monge that the Contadora Group has failed. Quite the contrary, the Costa Rican Government expressed its trust in the Contadora Group in an explanatory note claiming manipulation of Monge's statements by international news agencies.

Commander Ortega added that to solve the problems we are facing, the efforts of the Contadora Group countries must be made within a real and logical framework.

AMBASSADOR ON CONTADORA, U.S. AGGRESSION

FL011336 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0140 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Nicaraguan Ambassador to Mexico Edmundo Jarquin Calderon said here today that the Central American peace proposal, supported by Nicaragua, represents the best chance for the pacification process promoted by the Contadora Group. He added that Nicaragua cannot sign a subregional balanced military forces agreement bedause the Sandinist Government's main problem is not Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala or Costa Rica, but rather U.S. military aggression. He reiterated that Nicaraguan defense policy is tied to U.S. aggression and interventionism and not to the Central American nations. He said the overthrow of the Sandinist Government is the obsession of the U.S. Administration.

He said the greatest obstacle that has had to be faced to date by the Contadora Group -- consisting of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia -- is U.S. aggression in Central America, which is an element foreign to the conflict in the region. He said Nicaragua supports the principle of self-determination of peoples and the right to the economic and political system they desire. Since 1979, he said, Nicaragua has been seeking a political solution to its conflict. When he spoke of his country's elections, the Nicaraguan said 96 percent of all potential voters had registered, strengthening even more the nation's democratic system.

Jarquin Calderon denied Nicaragua has alliances with socialist nations, saying that what his country has done is to diversify its trade, financial, and political relations while maintaining its decision to be nonaligned. With regard to Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge's recent statement that the Contadora peace negotiations for Central America should be taken to the Organization of American States because the Contadora Group efforts had failed, the diplomat said Nicaragua does not share that opinion.

U.S. CHALLENGED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS

PA011559 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Mexico City -- The Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction today challenged the United States to seriously face the normalization of their bilateral relations and accompany the dialogue begun last June with specific evidence of its willingness to negotiate and with mutual concessions. The revolutionary government in turn would be willing to make its share of concessions, as an expression of its interest in negotiating, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Mexico Edmundo Jarquin announced at a press conference held for a large group of national and foreign journalists.

Nicaragua, the diplomat said, would be willing to immediately withdraw all foreign military advisers and is willing to ban the installation of military bases in its territory. He also stressed that on the other hand, neither the internal political process in Nicaragua nor the external aggression are the open to international negotiation, as this would set a very grave international precedent.

FSLN DIRECTORATE SENDS MESSAGE TO EPS

PA0301136 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1432 GMT 2 Sep 84

[FSLN National Directorate Message to the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, on the occasion of the 2 September EPS anniversary; date not given]

[Text] Brothers of the EPS: The FSLN greets the combatants of the EPS on the commemoration of the signing of the document that established the Army for the Defense of National Sovereignty and the fifth anniversary of the founding of the EPS. This is a day of glory, of revolutionary reaffirmation, and of inevitable nostalgia. In the first days of struggle in the actions of Rio Coco and Bocay, victory was just a dream and the weapons that we had obtained amid danger were shotguns and single shot rifle. In our first backpacks we had a few shotgun shells and the inexhaustible ammunition of our Sandinist convictions. Those historic deeds were nothing more than the continuation of the struggle undertaken by the small army of fearless and ragged men who defied formal logic and the firepower of the Yankee marines with historic common sense.

In the gloomy, difficult times of the beginning, a handful of men led by Carlos Fonseca and Santos Lopez opened the possibility for revolutionary development to achieve popular victory. Sandino's ragged army, the inexperienced and daring groups in Bocay and Pancasan, the experienced guerrilla fighters of Nicaragua's Atlantic, northern, central, and southern regions organized by the FSLN, and the insurrectional masses constitute the formidable base of our EPS.

The National Directorate can proudly state that Nicaragua has a modern Army whose backbone is the working people and whose indomitable banners are the same banners that were raised on 2 September 1927. The enemy is the same as always, but in this brilliant moment there is a qualitative difference with the historic struggles of the past when scarcities competed with daring and courage: The people are armed with rifles and have an inexhaustible arsenal of revolutionary conscience.

In the 20 years of struggle alongside our people, we have acquired experience, we have recovered our heritage, and we have learned to struggle and to win. Sandino's people have built a powerful fighting instrument. That instrument, the EPS, is the resurrection of our heroes and the reaffirmation of popular heroism.

We express our fraternal embrace. Free fatherland or death!

[Signed] FSLN National Directorate

Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Tomas Borge Martinez, Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez, Bayardo Arce Castano, Henry Ruiz Hernandez, Carlos Nunez Tellez, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Jaime Wheelock Roman, Luis Carrion Cruz.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA MARKS EPS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

PA021930 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1623 GMT 2 Sep 84

[Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, defense minister, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, and national chief of the Terrotorial Sandinist People's Militias, MPST, speech at ceremony to mark the fifth anniversary of the EPS at the Pedro Arauz Palacios Military Base -- live]

[Excerpts] After almost 20 years of carrying out a tenacious, clandestine armed struggle in the mountains, countryside, and the city, the FSLN, through its guerrilla struggle, urban resistance, and popular agitation, led the people to the great 19 July national insurrection. In that way, it defeated the dictatorship once and for all and cut the Yankee interventionist tentacle by which imperialism dominated our fatherland.

The EPS was born 5 years ago from the most noble, revolutionary, unselfish, and brave traditions of the historical struggle for our national and social liberation. The EPS was conceived by the triumphant revolution as the military axis through which our people and the entire nation guarantee the permanent defense of our sacred sovereignty and the revolutionary interest of thousands of heroes and martyrs, youths, and peasants who have shed their blood for a free fatherland and the people's revolution that we are advancing today.

The triumphant revolution from the start took on the complex and multiphase national defense tasks. Taking into account the warmongering U.S. policy against our country throughout a history of more than a century of infamous relations between that powerful country and small Nicaragua, the revolutionary leadership took on the long and huge task of national reconstruction to overcome the inherited poverty and the equally great task of arming the people.

In this way, we guaranteed the faithful filfillment of the principle that teaches us that a revolution which is not able to defend itself is not a genuine revolution. Throughout 5 years of revolutionary process, our brave and unselfish people have shown determination in facing and rejecting attacks from the Somozist army of mercenaries and traitors. They are also preparing to firmly reject another Yankee intervention attempt with the same revolutionary courage characteristic of our brave forefathers.

Only the patriotic and revolutionary spirit of the EPS members, chiefs, officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers has made it possible to confront the aggression launched by the most powerful nation on earth even though we lack a more complete supply of materials. However, thanks to the sacrifice made by our entire people, it has been possible to supply our troops in combat with the basic items needed to fulfill their various combative missions.

The EPS general staff has accumulated a wealth of experience in its mission of guaranteeing to the superior command the direction and execution of the national defense plans. The current war of aggression has been confronted without weakening the strategic guidelines established in the country's strategic plan. We have not stopped our Army's institutional consolidation while it undergoes its development process. We have made important advances in preparing the country to confront a direct Yankee aggression. At present we have the basic elements so that the people, the economy, and the country's state and political machinery can fulfill their respective missions in the anti-interventionist war of active resistance that will bleed the invader. With the people's conscientious participation, we have advanced in the organization of the various civil defense tasks, as well as facing the natural disasters that might eventually occur.

The large and small units, the various armed units, the rearguard, and the reinforcement units have all gained experience in the combat against the mercenary forces, each day stepping up their organizational cohesion and their capacity to mobilize and fight.

The Defense Ministry, backed by the various directorates, sections, and offices within its central structure, guarantees the functioning of the military and coordination with the rest of the state and Nicaraguan society in order to have harmony between the defense plans and the country's other political, economic, governmental, and social activities. These central structure components include: military intelligence, operations, organization and mobilization, cultural policy, communications, combat preparation, cadres, military training centers, engineering troops, [words indistinct] and transportation, weapons, finances, military construction, border troops, Sandinist People's Militia, civilian defense, military auditing, (?second directorate), military administration, public and foreign relations, and the rearguard and artillery chieftainships.

In recent years, especially this year, the Reagan administration has intensified its aggressive policy in the military, political, and economic areas in order to crush our revolutionary process. Nicaragua's efforts to achieve an honorable peace through political means and just and reasonable negotiations are rejected by the policy of imperialist aggression daily. The warmongering sectors have not varied their efforts to subdue our people and put an end to the revolution. By intensifying its irresponsible and criminal military adventure, the current Reagan administration wants to impose on us a shameful negotiation under which, faced with the threat of direct military intervention, they want us to eliminate the young Nicaraguan revolution.

Logically, the warmmongering sectors would find it very amusing if the Sandinist revolution were to commit suicide in the course of a political negotiation because, despite th the modern computers of highly-developed U.S. technology, it is still very difficult to estimate the cost of trying to kill our people with their Marines.

Due to its revolutionary principles and historical traditions, Nicaragua will never commit suicide, nor does Nicaragua wish to be killed. Although we are fully certain that a revolution like the Sandinist cannot be killed, we do not even want an attempt made to achieve this. for this reason, we will continue making every possible political and diplomatic effort to prevent this adventure.

Although in the end such an adventuresome step would depend on the warmongering sectors, we must remain confident that Americans along with the other peoples of the world -- especially as a result of our firmness -- would foil such an adveture and that if it took place it would be crshingly and shamefully defeated. They can intervene, but they cannot resolve the current conflict. On the contrary, they would aggravate it. The warmongerers do not even take into consideration the young Americans that they would sacrifice in their adventures. Like us, the American people and youths want to live in peace. The CIA policy, characterized by attacks and bombings, tends to unleash uncontrolled violence, which turns civilians into targets in the conlict, as was the case in the terrorist attacks on the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, Corinto, and Potosi.

Yesterday, some CIA adventurers carried out several activities which confirm the charges made by our leaders and our revolutionary government that in the next few months, and within the framework of the Nicaraguan electoral process, the warmongerers will step up the military tensions and aggressions as much as possible in order to create the conditions needed for a larger-scale intervention.

At 1430, three olive green push-and-pull planes, an unidentified silver-colored light aircraft, and a U.S.-made OH-58 reconnaissance and exploration helicopter flew into the area of (Huambuco), 16 km northwest of San Fernando. They flew in from the Honduran military (?bases in) El Aguacate and Jamastran and headed for Santa Clara. This took place in Nueva Segovia Department.

First, the planes flew over the length of La Hampa Hill, 1 km north of Santa Clara in an inverted wedge formation. Afterwards, they staged incursions into the Panali School area and dropped rockets on the school's visiting area and other areas including the kitchen and dormitories.

Following this, the helicopter flew to a position behind hill 700, 500 meters to the east of the installations. It launched sporadic M-60 machine gun fire on the center. As a results, our troops, headquartered at the Santa Clara School, quickly responded to the attack. We must point out the leadership of the unit (?leader). He is present at this ceremony to receive a decoration. This prompt response by our combatants enabled the downing of the helicopter. It fell on our territory. [applause] It felt 400 meters from a border post.

As a result of this enemy attack, first ... [crowd chants slogans] s a result of this warmongering escalation of the most reactionary sectors of the current U.S. administration, the helicopter and its three crewmen were destroyed. Two of them were found completely burned. However, one of them was not burned and we are attempting to take a picture of him. This agent of the CIA and imperialism could be a native of the United States and out of respect for the U.S. people we will see that the U.S. press receives his picture to allow anyone who may recognize him to come and take his body home.

He could also be Honduran, perhaps the first Honduran army chief. This could help deepen investigations into these kinds of incidents that may involve treason or may have been carried out without the permission of higher authorities. The other men are Hondurans even though they are so badly burned. We are quite sure that [words indistinct].

For the peace of mind of our people and especially the relatives of these involved in the Patriotic Military Service, whose children are in the Santa Clara School Military Unit, we want to report that there are no dead or wounded among the members of that unit as a result of this criminal attack. [applause] However, we regret the death of civilians working in the military (?center). They include 28-year-old Maximo Ponce Patrana, 13-year-old Altaluz Hernandez Quinones, 12-year-old Juan Herrera, and 12-vear-old (Ernesto Herrera). They are sons of civilian companeros who work in the kitchen and at the center. Among the wounded are (Emilio Pran Diaz), cook, and Maria Hernandez Pardo.

This escalation by U.S. imperialism came a few days after our heroic combatants downed a C-47 plane. (?Based) on studies, we have gathered enough evidence that shows that the C-47 was serving the United States. Among other things, we found a plate that says [words indistinct] Atlanta, Georgia [word indistinct]. We found it among pieces of navigation and radio equipment from the downed aircraft.

We [12 second break in transmission] the imperialism continues with its indiscriminate bombings. The United States is going to continue launching these attacks against military and civilian targets and, as we said before, this is dangerous because it will lead to an indiscriminate outbreak of violence. Once unleashed -- we know that violence is being unleashed here in Nicaragua -- we do not know what will happen or what kind of damage this violence could bring. We do not know where the violence will end. We know that the violence unleashed by imperialism begins here, but we can't predict where it will end.

Nicaragua does not tremble in the face of pressures and threats. We want an understanding, but at the same time we prepare to fight throughout our country. We are sure that the Americans will continue the military intervention [words indistinct] the threats and warmongering policy.

Nicaragua is not alone. Today the peoples of the world, especially those of Latin America, have decided to be free, sovereign, and independent. The spirit of Bolivar, San Martin, O'Higgins, Tupac Amaru, Jose Marti, Benito Juarez, Emiliano Zapata, Farabundo Marti, Camilo Torres, (?Turcios Lima), Francisco [word indistinct], Che Guevara, and so many other illustrious figures, accompany us. [applause]

Our working people will continue to make their revolution; our heroic border guardmen, the members of the Patriotic Military Service, the members of the [word indistinct]; the reserve battalions, the Sandinist People's Militia, the pilots, the sailors, the Interior Ministry fighters, and all of the people will continue to fight for peace, defeating the mercenaries of imperialism. [applause]

Today we comemorate the day of the Mandinist People's Army, the Army that defends national sovereignty. In memory of Sandino and his barefoot army, in memory of Carlos Fonseca and his FSLN brothers who also laid down their lives, in memory of the heroes and martyrs who have laid down their lives in this [words indistinct]; in memory of the blood shed by our soldiers and officers while facing the current aggression, in memory of the missing and the martyrs murdered by the terror of the mercenary, in view of the sorrow of the Nicaraguan people who are victims of imperialists terror we reaffirm our oath never to give in and to endure, with Sandinist forbearance, the material privations that the Yankee blockade is attempting to force on us.

We reaffirm our oath never to surrender with the firm conviction that we shall overcome the economic and political difficulties we face and convinced that our sacrifice today will guarantee the future and happiness of our people.

Eternal glory to the heroes and martyrs who have laid down their lives for our homeland and the revolution. Free fatherland or death! [applause]

HUMBERTO ORTEGA ON U.S. AGGRESSION, PLANS

PA040012 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2156 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan Defense Minister, press conference with unidentified reporters at the National and Foreign Relations Office of the Defense Ministry in Managua]

[Text] [Ortega in progress] ... how we will respond. Well, we will see that when we respond. I do not know how we will respond. However, we can say that we will respond firmly. This firm response was demonstrated by the shooting down of the helicopter and of the airplane, as well as the shooting down of the other airplanes in the south. We will respond firmly.

[Reporter] Can we say that this is accompanied by land actions by the counterrevolutionaries? Combined activities?

[Ortega] This is all part of the political and military aggressive escalation that the United States is currently using as strong pressure against Nicaragua within the framework of the negotiations being held. Basically, from a tactical viewpoint, this operation could be a way of seeking relief for the pressures that our forces are putting on their regional commands in the north-central areas of the country. In the past weeks these counterrevolutionary regional commands have suffered serious setbacks due to the pressures placed on them by our Army. Therefore, this action could be a way to build up the enemy's morale. Their morale has been hurt severely. It could also be a way to distract our attention. Above all, this has a very strong political connotation. On this aerial map you can see that these actions originate from support bases in Honduras, particularly from the Jamastran and El Aguacate Bases.

[Reporter] Commander: What has the U.S. Embassy said about the work being done by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry regarding the bodies of those mercenaries?

[Ortega] I cannot really answer that since that is a matter that is in the hands of the Foreign Ministry. I believe Father Miguel D'Escoto, our foreign minister, will hold a press conference with U.S. television networks today and at that time he will give you information on this matter.

[Reporter] Commander: Is it true that yesterday there was [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] Our border areas are constantly subject to enemy activities. Yesterday, there were raids in Quilali. However, these raids have never been strategic in nature. These are raids aimed at harassing and showing a presence of forces. The raids are a means of distraction to help their main forces, located in the north-central areas of the country, who are currently being pressured by our counteroffensive.

[Reporter] Commander: What is happening in Bluefields?

[Ortega] The situation in Bluefields is normal. I do not know what you mean.

[Reporter] We have heard reports that there were some problems there with the groups of those who are up in arms.

[Ortega] There is war activity in the southern areas of the country, especially in the southern Atlantic areas. However, this activity has decreased. Pastora's group, those who were left over, are the ones operating in that area of south Zelaya. They operate in small groups and their targets are mainly economic and industrial. They try to terrorize and boycott our plans in that area. They are interested in hindering the grain harvest and obstructing the roads used to deliver the agricultural products. They want to affect the region's economic activities. At the present time they are not carrying out important activities against military targets.

[Reporter] Commander, you have recently experienced some problems in recruiting for the Patriotic Military Service. How would you explain these difficulties and what measures will be adopted?

[Ortega] The military service in Nicaragua is something new. For some time now we have been working toward this but its enforcement is relatively recent. The military service coincided with the increase in aggressions against our country by the U.S. administration. Undoubtedly, this has created a series of practical and material difficulties and problems because it is a task that is difficult to carry out even if pressures did not exist. We have had some problems, but basically military service is being fulfilled. Proof of this is demonstrated by the fact that the force we planned to create this year is practically complete. The current situation is proof of this; it can be seen in the struggle against the mercenary forces who operate in northern Nicaragua and who are being fought by youths who have been properly trained in the irregular struggle battalions.

We have problems but they are small problems. Our rightist enemies try to make more of this in an attempt to politically damage the revolution. However, we can describe the experience of the military service as positive.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] As we said before, there has been positive pressure against the enemy. The CIA land and sea activities currently under way are being carried out because of our success in this campaign. They are afraid of the demolishing blows our Army can inflict on the regional commands currently operating in the north-central areas of the country. These demolishing blows could place them in a difficult situation.

For the remainder of this year and in early 1985 the U.S. administration wants to present an active, warmongering, counterrevolutionary army that will serve the United States as a spearhead for increasing its military intervention. If we can continue to defeat the counterrevolutionaries as we have until now -- we have made them inoperable, this would not help the plans the U.S. administration has for increasing its aggression. Currently, these plans are hindered because of the U.S. electoral panorama.

Therefore, the U.S. administration and the CIA will do everything they can to keep the counterrevolution, especially the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] active in northern Nicaragua and on the border. In view of the difficult situation being experienced by some of their forces who entered the country through Honduras, they increase the aggression with actions such as this.

The problem is that such actions could develop into situations that cannot be easily described. Very tense and difficult situations could develop on the border between Nicaragua and Honduras.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] measures that will be enforced against anyone trying to [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] Well, we will enforce all of the measures foreseen by law. That is all; those are the only ones. In other words, if a citizen is driving down a street and he fails to stop at a red light, he will be fined for this. Well, anyone not complying with the law will have to face the [word indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that has given support to Nicaragua, with fighters and weapons; however, he did not give further details. Can you specify what kind of military aid he has given to Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, I did not hear that speech. I do not know...[changes thought] I would have to read it.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] In fact, we have always received political and military support from Libya. We have also received some support for the defense sector. However, I would have to read his speech to see what he actually said. However, there has been economic, political, and moral support -- in the defense sector also -- for our revolution.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We can assert what Moynihan, himself, said: Two were U.S. citizens. Yesterday we said that one of them looked like a U.S. citizen. He was the only one whose features could be recognized. However, it is difficult to know if the third one was a U.S. citizen or from another country.

We mentioned Honduras because we thought that since several members of the Honduran Armed Forces are involved in this CIA activity, it would not be farfetched to think they had a Honduran scout with them. He would serve as their guide or helper, being an expert on the region, to lead them toward their destination. He could also be a Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary, but we don't know because his corpse is burned beyond recognition.

However, as Moynihan said, we can assert that there were two U.S. citizens. This is quit clear and the CIA said it. There is no mistake about that.

[Reporter] Some weeks ago, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero asserted that as of early Septembe a contra offensive would be launched. Do you have any information regarding whether this offensive has already been launched?

[Ortega] Well, it is possible that this attack represents the start of a new counter-revolutionary offensive. We have disrupted all of the offensives that they have launched thus far this year. They tried to begin an offensive on 19 July and boycott the registrations that were so successfully carried out in Nicaragua for the elections. However, they failed and couldn't do a thing. They were not even able to take over a small town on that occasion.

Regarding the boycott against the registrations, they were not able to achieve anthing after 19 July either. Therefore, they are logically in dire need of showing a large military presence between September and November, which is when we will carry out our electoral process.

It is predictable that the contras will become even more active in the next weeks and months by launching large-scale operations like the ones they tried to launch but which failed.

However, in addition to their plans, we must take into consideration our actions. We are constantly countering their plans; therefore, they have not been able to launch large-scale operations.

If we had not stopped their plans for July, they might have even taken over an important city. They had plans to take over Jinotega in July, in addition to other cities. Ocotal, Somoto and other sectors were part of their plans. However, they failed because our forces were deployed to the area and because of the role of the Sandinist Peoples' Militias. We have always maintained the initiative in this war.

If we do not maintain a constant initiative and mobilize our forces against the enemy, they could logically organize their forces and launch them against an important objective. However, we think it will prove difficult for them. Nevertheless, they are compelled to try this, to seek a political victory, to boost morale and to boycott and delay the Nicaraguan electoral process. They are compelled to do this so we do not discard the possibility that they will launch similar actions in the next few weeks. The counter-revolution will surely try to engage in a large-scale clash with our forces. However, they know that they cannot defeat our Army so they will seek to create a political situation that allows increasing U.S. participation in the conflict through Honduras and other countries. We expect the situation to become even more tense in September or October.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] white spots seen on the map, and you say that the helicopter...

[Ortega, interrupting] No, that was clearly explained. This is a navigation chart and it was found in the helicopter. It specifically shows the routes used to fly from Honduras to supply the different camps [words indistinct] in Nicaragua. You can see that this is marked on the chart. The white part refers to the sector that is always covered with fog. They have not been able to take photographs of that area.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] You can see the map up close and see how they have taken photographs of th e landing strip and other installations.

COMMANDER TORRES SAYS COMBAT PLANES BEING SOUGHT

PA311329 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Brigade Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the political section of the Sandinist People's Army, today said that Nicaragua is trying to obtain combat planes. He stated this during a press conference held to announce the celebration of Army Day.

Regarding this topic, he said that Nicaragua has the weakest Air Force in Central America and perhaps in the continent. Why then shouldn't we have modern planes? Commander Torres asked, adding: We are going to have combat planes. He said that due to the lack of a modern Air Force, CIA planes constantly violate our national airspace. Torres added that due to the lack of combat planes, the bombings in the Sandino airport, the Casita Volcano, and the area around the Centroamerica school have taken place. He added that a very good antiaircraft system is being built with the mission of safeguarding the country's military and economic targets. Commander Torres said: Our Army has a radar system that is already detecting enemy flights. The possibilities of an air raid continue to exist so we favorably view the goverment junta's law on the establishment of an air raid alarm system.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT TO POLAND, GDR BY JUCEPLAN'S PEREZ

Meets Jaruzelski

FL011844 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] The first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party, PZPR, and Chairman of the Military Council of National Salvation, Wojciech Jaruzelski, has received Humberto Perez Gonzalez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, alternate member of the Politburo of our party, and president of the Central Planning Board, Juceplan. Humberto Perez is in Warsaw on a working visit to coordinate Cuban-Polish economic plans for the coming 5-year period.

Memorandum Signed With Poland

FL312330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Cuba and Poland today signed in Warsaw a memorandum on the working meeting which was held here between the heads of their respective central planning organs. The document was signed by Humberto Perez, minister president of Cuba's Central Planning Board [Juceplan] and Manfred Gorywoda chairman of Poland's Planning Commission.

The memorandum summarizes the two leaders' conversations on coordinating the 1986-90 5-year economic plan between Cuban and Poland. Present at the ceremony were first Under Secretary of Poland's Planning Commission Stanislaw Dlygosz, the Cuban embassy's interim business attache Jesus Mendizabal, and officials from the two countries.

Polish Trade Agreement

FL011930 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 1 Sep 84

[Text] Humberto Perez Gonzalez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and president of the Cuban Central Planning Board, Juceplan, traveled today from Warsaw to Berlin after concluding an official 4-day visit to Poland. Perez Gonzalez will visit the city of Leipzig in the GDR, where the traditional agricultural products show is being held.

At the Polish international airport of Okecie, Humberto Perez and his companions were accompanied by Deputy Chairman Manfred Gorywoda, chairman of the Polish Planning Commission. In Poland, the Cuban leader held talks on the coordination of Cuban-Polish economic cooperation plans for the 5-year period 1986-1990. Humberto Perez capped his visit to Poland with the signature of a trade agreement between Cuba and Poland. In the agreement, Cuba and Poland affirm that the level of bilateral trade established for the present 5-year period will be surpassed.

Poland will supply Cuba with products for the food industry, paper, wood, and glass industries, and metalworking machinery. In exchange, Poland will receive diverse agricultural and mineral products including citrus fruits, rum, liqueurs, tobacco products, and raw materials. New possibilities of cooperation were studied in which Cuba would use its products to pay for Polish machinery and equipment used in the manufacture of its products.

Meets Honecker

FL040140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Erich Honecker, chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, has inaugurated the traditional autumn Leipzig Fair in which approximately 6,000 exhibitors from 100 nations are participating.

Honecker began his tour of the installations of the 22 buildings located on the fair grounds this morning. When he arrived at the Cuban exhibit in Building 16 he was received by Humbergo Perez, alternate member of the Politburo of the Cuban Communist Party, who welcomed him. Perez, who is minister president of the Central Planning Board [Juceplan], expressed his pleasure at being able to receive Honecker on this piece of Cuba and transmitted to him cordial greetings from the top leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, for the eternal friendship always demonstrated towards our people, especially during the difficult moments of the struggle against U.S. imperialism.

POLAND'S CZYREK RECEIVES UJC 1ST SECRETARY LAGE

FL031940 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1804 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] Jozef Czyrek, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Polish United Workers' Party, received Carlos Lage, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], today in Warsaw. During the meeting, described as cordial and friendly, Czyrek and Lage discussed the present state of relations between the youth organizations of Poland and Cuba and their future development.

Lage, who has been in Warsaw since last Saturday, visited historical and cultural centers of the Polish capital accompanied by the commander of the Polish Scout Union, Ryszard Wosinski. The first secretary of the UJC also placed a floral wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and signed the visitor's book of this monument built in memory to the heroes of that nation.

LEZCANO ADDRESSES LIBYAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

FL311654 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Jorge Lezcano, member of the Central Committee and vice president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government, has said: History has shown us that it is not possible to retreat a single step in the face of imperialism's policy of aggression. Speaking at the International Conference on Solidarity with the Libyan Revolution, which is being held in Tripoli, the Cuban leader emphasized that it is necessary to cement the unity of all anti-imperialist and progressive forces as the only possible way to achieve victory.

RAMIRO VALDES HEADS DELEGATION TO ETHIOPIA

FL031456 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] The Communist Party of Cuba's official delegation, which will attend the founding congress of the Ethiopian Workers Party [Partido de los Trabajadores Etiopes], departed yesterday for Ethiopia headed by Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, who is a Politburo member, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and minister of interior. The delegation will also attend the festivities to be held on the 10th anniversary of the triumph of Ethiopia's revolution.

FLAVIO BRAVO ON UPCOMING ANPP MEETINGS

FL312128 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the People's Government National Assembly [ANPP], has announced that Havana will host the opening meeting for ANPP delegates to present their reports to the electorate on Wednesday, 5 September. Oscar Fernandez Mell, president of the ANPP of the City of Havana Province, will open the proceedings on Wednesday at 2030 in Marianao.

Flavio Bravo, who is also a Central Committee member, said that this presentation of reports would continue nationwide throughout September, and that the meetings should be lively, short, and interesting, while the reports should be concise and well presented.

He made a reference to the high percentage of attendance during prior report presentations and said that attendance should be taken. In another part of his press statement, Flavio Bravo said that the imminent reports presentation would be representative of Cuba's democracy, and alluded to the success of the previous reports presentation, at which an 86 percent attendance record was achieved.

He said on that occasion, almost 100,000 matters were presented, most of them in reference to problems with restaurants, domestic commerce, communal services and transportation. He said a unique information system for covering the meetings was being worked on, and that this would be applied experimentally in 52 municipalities to avoid any loss of coverage. Flavio Bravo underscored that the fundamental issue was to find a solution to these problems, and that when a problem could not be resolved immediately, a convincing explanation must be given.

In his press statement today, Flavio Bravo underscored his optimism on the delegate's work, which he described as becoming increasingly better, because those delegates are better prepared and more active. He called on enterprises and stores at the local and national level to help the delegates so they could present their electorates with problems already solved. He said that the delegates, with help from mass organizations and the executive committee, should make an effort to be well prepared. At the meetings, the delegate should report on activities carried out during the period, and should make an effort to hold discussions so that the people's participation would enrich the meetings.

BRAVO HOLDS TALKS WITH GDR'S SINDERMANN

FL040120 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Sep 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, Central Committee member and president of the People's Government National Assembly [ANPP], held official conversations today with Horst Sindermann, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and president of the GDR People's Chamber. During the fraternal exchange of views and opinions, Sindermann stressed the solidarity nature of his visit to our country in the present situation of U.S. imperialistic aggression. A large part of the conversation of the two leaders referred to the advances achieved in the economies and standard of living of the peoples of Cuba and the GDR. During his visit to Cuba, invited by the National Assembly, Sindermann will visit the Isle of Youth, Cienfuegos, and other places of interest in this capital.

Further Report

LD032321 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1837 GMT 3 Sep 83

[Excerpts] Havana, 3 Sep (ADN) -- Horst Sindermann, president of the GDR People's Chamber and member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, was cordially welcomed in Havana today by Flavio Bravo, president of the Cuban National Assembly and member of the Cuban CP Central Committee.

Flavio Bravo informed his guest about the tasks facing the Cuban National Assembly, which focus on the continuing improvement of the effectiveness of all organs of people's power. To this end justifications concerning the effectiveness of all organs of people's power had begun throughout the country. The debate on the draft of the first Cuban labor code, which is currently taking place in all work collectives, is a practical example of the participation by the broad masses in the development of the socialist distribution of power.

SLOVAK INSURRECTION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

FL311502 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1102 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] The 40th anniversary of the national Slovak insurrection has been celebrated in Havana City Province at a ceremony organized by the Czechoslovak House of Culture. (Vladimir Branin), acting charge d'affaires of the diplomatic mission of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in Cuba, spoke of the anniversary of the liberation of that Republic from the Nazi yoke and enumerated some of the many achievements of the past four decades.

The Czechoslovak diplomat described the struggle of the Slovak guerrillas and of the National Liberation Army that, supported by the USSR, achieved resounding triumphs to which the luminous present is owed. Two documentary films were shown on the struggle for liberation and modern Czechoslovakia.

VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR NOTES AFFINITY WITH CUBA

FL311300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 30 Aug 84

[Text] The Vietnamese ambassador to Cuba, Hoang Luong, said today during a press conference in Havana that our two countries are in the same situation, and we have the same tasks: production and national defense.

The diplomat spoke about the coming celebration of the 39th anniversary of the proclamation of Vietnamese independence, on 2 September, and described moments in the history of his country. He said that, after long years of struggle against French, Japanese, and U.S. invaders, his nation achieved complete independence. He also described the present Chinese communist aggression against Vietnam.

SEMINAR ON U.S. ELECTIONS, POLICY OPENS IN HAVANA

PA010221 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Aug 84

[Text] A scientific seminar opened this morning at the Havana Convention Palace on the U.S. elections and Washington's policy toward Latin America. Latin American and U.S. researchers are participating. Opening the 3-day seminar, Luis Suarez, director of the Cuban Center for American Studies, pointed out the importance of the meeting under the present circumstances, as well as the scientific level of the participants.

The first point on the agenda was presented by Mexican researcher Jesus Velasco, who warned of the negative consequences for Latin America of a Republican Party victory in the 6 November U.S. elections. He noted that the U.S. right wing, controlled by the Republican Party, intends to obtain larger shares of power in the upcoming elections and confirms the fanatically anticommunist position of the U.S. Government toward the rest of the world. Velasco advised that Latin America should be attentive to the possible reelection of Ronald Reagan which would mean an increase in U.S. intervention in Central America, and the strengthening of the military regimes in the area. U.S. researcher William Perry, a member of the Georgetown University Center for Strategic Studies, also discussed Republican tendencies at the morning session. Perry referred to the Republican policy project toward Central America and the Caribbean.

Topics Discussed

PA031708 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Sep 84

[Text] The scientific seminar on the 6 November U.S. elections concluded its sessions ir in Havana on Sunday with an interesting debate about the dangerous, conservative, inflexible, and dogmatic nature of the policy of the current U.S. Administration toward Latin America.

Approximately 30 experts from the United States, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Puerto Rico participated in the final debate, which was presided over by Argentine researcher Nestor Lavergne. The main topic of the final session was the future of the U.S. policy toward Latin America before and after the November elections, regardless of who wins, Ronald Reagan or Walter Mondale.

The seminar, which had included discussions of 12 lectures on this general topic during its first two sessions, focused its attention on two basic issues: the situation in Central America and the Caribbean and the Latin American foreign debt as factors which may affect U.S. elections.

The viewpoints of the Republican administration were analyzed and defended by Professor (William Torres) of Georgetown University's Center for Strategic Studies. Meanwhile, other views were provided by Robert Brower, adviser to Ronald Dellums, Democratic representative from the state of California, and (Samuel Erson), chief of the electoral campaign of communist candidate Gus Hall. Juan Garcia Pasalacua, a Puerto Rican with democratic leanings, and Mexicans Carlos Rico, Patricia de los Rios, and Jesus Velasco, as well as University of Illinois Professor (Diane Pinderhughes) also participated actively in the final debates.

The final debates were highlighted by the contribution of Nicaraguan Professor Ramon Meneses, who reiterated his country's willingness to negotiate but warned that Nicaraguan sovereignty cannot be discussed or negotiated. He also noted that the United States has no moral or legal right to meddle in Nicaraguan domestic affairs. After charging that Washington is involved in a war to bleed Nicaragua to death and has even contemplated the idea of direct intervention as a last resort, Meneses said that the Nicaraguan people are willing to defend their sovereignty at any price. The closing speech was made by Luis Suarez, director of the Cuban Center for American Studies, the agency which sponsored the event which Suarez described as useful and successful in the exchange of ideas.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. PLANS TO INVADE NICARAGUA

PA012358 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Aug 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The big steps taken by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Central America increase the danger that Washington will make up its mind to invade Nicaragua. The aggression, for which Washington would await the best opportunity, has been in preparation for more than 2 years. Poorly concealing its intentions, the White House also tries to use the continued threat of a military intervention as a means to exert psychological pressure or blackmail.

As is widely known, the U.S. plans include the utilization of Honduras -- a country turned into a Pentagon military post and operations center of counterrevolutionary bands from Nicaragua -- and Costa Rica, where other counterrevolutionary groups operate against Nicaragua. These operations are directed and financed by the CIA. In addition, and due to the dismemberment of the so-called Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, because of the exclusion of its leader Eden Pastora, as well as the continuing military defeats inflicted on ARDE, the CIA decided to concentrate members of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force at the Costa Rican border province of Guanacaste. With the cooperation of Israel, El Salvador, and other regimes, this U.S. agency for espionage and subversion has been supplying arms and materiel to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary bands.

NEWSWEEK has asserted that President Reagan is quietly increasing the U.S. presence in Central America for a possible intervention into El Salvador or Nicaragua. The magazine has quoted White House officials as saying that they expect Managua has received the message implied in the increased U.S. military presence in the region and added that President Reagan will act vigorously even in the middle of the U.S. electoral campaign. These statements and the events that occur in the Central American region are contrary to the spirit of the talks that have been held by U.S. and Nicaraguan official delegations since June of this year.

What perspectives can there be for a negotiated solution to the region's conflicts when the United States deploys its military forces in the area and U.S. officials unceasingly utter threats against Nicaragua? Five large U.S. warships are off Central America's Pacific coast and, a few days ago, the Pentagon announced the beginning of small-scale military exercises in Central America.

Furthermore, the number of CIA members in Honduras has increased and the U.S. Navy has sent 55 Marines to reinforce the contingent of the Tigre Island radar center in the Gulf of Fonseca, shared by Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador.

If any doubts linger regarding Washington's aggressive policy toward Nicaragua, consider the platform recently approved by the Republican Party convention for Reagan's reelection. In this platform, the U.S. military invasion of Grenada last year appears as the symbol of the Ronald Reagan doctrine for the Western Hemisphere.